DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION *

v. *

* CASE NO.: SPMG-09-0009

RONALD A. GEORGE
Ron George Jewelers *
205 Main Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401, *

Respondent *

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation ("Department") based on a complaint filed by the Anne Arundel County Police Department. Based on that complaint, the Department determined that administrative charges against Ronald A. George ("Respondent") were appropriate and that an administrative hearing on those charges should be held. A hearing was scheduled for October 8, 2009 at the Office of Administrative Hearings. However, the Department and the Respondent reached an agreement to resolve the matter by Consent Order rather than proceed with that hearing. The Department and the Respondent consent to the entry of this Order as final resolution of the regulatory charges in Case No. SPMG-09-0009.

IT IS STIPULATED BY THAT PARTIES that:

1. On or about October 22, 2008, the Respondent became licensed (No. 2255) as a secondhand precious metal object dealer ("dealer"), as defined in Section 12-101(b) of the Business Regulation Article of the Maryland Annotated Code.

2. The Respondent is currently licensed as a dealer.

3. The name of the company through which the Respondent acquires secondhand precious metal objects is/has been Ron George Jewelers.

4. Prior to becoming licensed, the Respondent and/or his shop acquired secondhand precious metal objects ("object" or "objects") from members of the public.

5. The Respondent failed to complete daily return, or transaction, forms for those transactions and failed to submit such forms to the primary law enforcement unit.

6. The Respondent failed to tag each object individually with a number that corresponded to the transaction under which the object was acquired.

7. On or about December 15, 2008, the Respondent completed a transaction in which he acquired objects from an undercover police officer.

8. The Respondent failed to obtain required identifying information from that individual; failed to complete a daily return, or transaction form; and failed to submit such form to the primary law enforcement unit.

9. The Respondent did not keep the objects at his place of business or at a storage facility specified in his application for a dealer's license.

10. During the execution of a search warrant at the Respondent's shop on December 22, 2008, members of the Anne Arundel County Police Department recovered a number of objects.

11. The Respondent's shop had acquired those objects after he became licensed as a dealer but had not submitted daily return, or transaction, forms to the primary law enforcement unit.

12. On or about December 23, 2008, the Respondent faxed a copy of a daily return, or transaction, form to the Anne Arundel County Police Department at a police officer's request.

13. The seller in the transaction was a J.T. (name not included for privacy reasons) and the form was dated December 2, 2008.

14. On or about January 5, 2009, the police officer received two daily return, or transaction, forms from the Respondent by mail.

15. One of the forms (with alterations) was the form for the J.T. transaction, while the other involved a seller named J.N. (name not included for privacy reasons).

16. As to the J.T. form that had been faxed to the police, the Respondent failed to submit it to the police in a timely fashion; failed to note the seller's race; failed to note whether the seller had a beard, mustache, tattoos, scars, or other distinguishing features; failed to note whether photographic identification had been used; failed to note whether the seller was known to the dealer; failed to note the dealer price for each object acquired; and failed to include the time of the transaction and a transaction number.

17. On the J.T. form that was mailed to police, the Respondent altered the form by noting that the seller was known to the dealer.

18. As to the J.N. form, the Respondent failed to submit it to the police in a timely fashion; failed to adequately describe the objects; failed to note the seller's height, weight, and date of birth; failed to note whether the seller used glasses or had tattoos, scars, or other distinguishing features; failed to note whether photographic identification had been used; and failed to include the time of the transaction, a transaction number, and the correct date of the transaction.

19. The Respondent knew, or should have known, of statutory and regulatory requirements concerning daily return, or transaction, reporting forms and their submission to the primary law enforcement unit.

20. By entering this Consent Order, the Respondent expressly waives his right to any hearing or further proceeding before the Office of Administrative Hearings to which he may be entitled in this matter and any rights to appeal from the Consent Order.

21. The Respondent enters this Consent Order freely, knowingly, and voluntarily, and with the advice of counsel.

22. The Respondent agrees to comply with the requirements of Section 12-101 *et seq.* of the Business Regulation Article, Maryland Annotated Code, and the Code of Maryland Regulations 09.25.01.01 *et seq.* in future transactions.

BASED ON THESE STIPULATIONS, IT IS, THIS 5th day of Oct, 2009, BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION,

ORDERED that Respondent Ronald A. George has violated Maryland Annotated Code, Business Regulation Article, §§12-201(a), 12-301(a) and (e), 12-302(a), 12-304(a) and (c), and 12-305(d), as well as Code of Maryland Regulations 09.25.01.01A, and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is assessed a total civil penalty of $1,500.00 for those violations, which amount is payable to the Department within 30 day of the date this Consent Order is executed by the Department, and it is further

ORDERED that, if payment of the civil penalty is not made within that 30-day period, the Respondent's license as a "dealer" shall be automatically suspended until payment is made, and it is further

ORDERED that the Department's records and publications shall reflect the discipline imposed on the Respondent.

RONALD A. GEORGE

LEONARD J. HOWIE III
DEPUTY SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING
& REGULATION

9-30-09
Date