



Secondhand Personal Property Dealer License, Montgomery County, Maryland

Who must have a secondhand Personal Property license?

Dealers of secondhand personal property must have a license to operate in the county if they are in the business of buying, obtaining, acquiring, or receiving certain types of secondhand personal property (see next question), or if they are engaged as an auctioneer. Typical businesses that required a license include:

- Pawnshops
- Secondhand stores
- Antique stores
- Consignment stores
- Buy-sell stores
- Stores selling new items that also take trade-ins, buy used equipment or take used items for consignment
- Individuals who make *or assist* in sales over the Internet

What types of personal property are covered by the law?

The following personal property is subject:
Radios and other audio equipment
Televisions and other video equipment
Photographic, optical and computer equipment

Typewriters, calculators and other electronic or electrical home or office appliances, machines, or equipment
Firearms
Bicycles
Jewelry and watches
Furs and leather goods
Objects d'art
Paintings
Power tools
Fine or historic china crystal, glass or porcelain
Carpets and rugs
Musical instruments
Any item serialized, marked for identification purposes, or engraved

Where do I get the license?

The Office of Consumer Protection issues the license. Call 240-777-3636 for an application and a copy of the law and regulations. This information is also available in Room 330 of the council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville.

Are there any exceptions to the license requirement?

Charitable organizations selling *only* donated items or any dealer who *only* buys at public sales need not be licensed. Charitable organizations can apply for an exemption.

What is required of me once I have the license?

The law requires licensed dealers to keep records of transactions; provide the Police Department with a copy of the records; store items for a certain period of time before selling disposing of, or altering the item; and allow the Police Department to make inspections. **If you have questions about these requirements, please call the Police Department Pawn, Precious Metal and Secondhand Property Unit at 240-773-5065.**

Are other licenses required?

Secondhand dealers must also have a trader's license, available from the Circuit Court, Judicial Center, 50 Maryland Avenue, Room 111, Rockville, 240-777-9460.

The State of Maryland may also require an additional license for pawnbrokers and second-hand precious metal object dealers. For more information, please call the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, (Second-hand Precious Metal Object Dealers and Pawnbrokers), 410-230-6222.

**Montgomery County
Office of Consumer Protection**

Purpose of this license

Each year hundred of thousands of dollars of personal property is stolen from homes and businesses in the County. To thwart this illegal activity, many of us have installed security systems or joined with our neighbors to form watch groups. This has helped to reduce theft, but not eliminate it.

Many of the stolen items are sold to stores dealing in secondhand property where they are often purchased for a fraction of their actual worth. In many cases, the storekeeper has been an unwitting participant in this fencing activity.

To help recover stolen property, the Montgomery County Police Department compares stolen property reports with reports received from secondhand dealers of secondhand items that come into their stores. The Department works with police departments in other jurisdictions who are doing the same checks. As a result of this cooperation a significant amount of stolen personal property is recovered each year.

The Police Department, and all of us who have been victims of theft, appreciate the contribution secondhand dealers make in tackling this problem.

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**Office of Consumer Protection
Montgomery County,
Maryland**

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Information

*As required in County Code Chapter 44A
(adopted 1980, as amended)*