

SCDCA v. Gaston Jewelry and Pawn Office, Inc.

(Docket No. 16-ALJ-30-0039-CC)

On February 5, 2016, the Department filed a request for a contested case hearing in the Administrative Law Court (ALC) against Gaston Jewelry and Pawn Office, Inc., (Respondent) following a special investigation by the Department.

The Department determined the Respondent was in violation of the South Carolina Pawnbroker Act (Act), by conducting pawnbroker activity without renewing their Certificate of Authority. S.C. Code Ann. § 40-39-10 et seq. (Supp. 2016) and S.C. Code Regs. 28-200 (2011). During the investigation, the Department identified two hundred twenty-six (226) pawn transactions completed while Respondent did not hold a valid Certificate of Authority in violation of section 40-39-20 and 28-200(B)(1) of the South Carolina Code of Regulations.

The hearing was scheduled for August 30, 2016, but the Respondent failed to appear. On September 15, 2016, the ALC issued a final order, finding Respondent was in default and ordering Respondent to immediately cease and desist operating as a pawnbroker, and to pay an administrative fine of \$10,000 to the Department.