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## Attorney General Brown Charges Maryland-based Athletic Equipment Manufacturer

Charges Allege Unfair and Deceptive Practices in Violation of the Maryland Consumer Protection Act

**BALTIMORE, MD** (April 22, 2024) – Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown announced today that his Consumer Protection Division has filed charges against Daniel J. Tiffin, Gerald Stringer, Bradley Tiffin, and STI Leasing, Inc. d/b/a STI Athletic Mats, Inc. (collectively, "Tiffin Mats"), who manufactured and sold gymnastics and wrestling mats online to customers in Maryland and other states. Tiffin Mats' principal office is located in Elkton, Maryland.

According to the <u>Statement of Charges</u>, after accepting customers' payments, Tiffin Mats failed to manufacture and ship the purchased equipment to customers and refused to refund customers' payments when refunds were requested. Tiffin Mats' customers included both individual consumers and nonprofit organizations, such as cheer teams and athletic clubs. The Division alleges that although its customers routinely made multiple attempts to contact them about their orders or request a refund, Tiffin Mats repeatedly offered false excuses for its delayed or unfulfilled orders to its customers.

The Division is seeking an injunction, as well as the payment of restitution, penalties, and costs for the alleged violations of Maryland's Consumer Protection Act. A hearing has been set for July 15, 2024, at the Office of Administrative Hearings, 11101 Gilroy Rd, Hunt Valley, MD 21031.

For more information, consumers may call the Consumer Protection hotline at (410) 528-8662 or toll free at (888) 743-0023.

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https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2024/042224a.pdf