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PRESS RELEASE

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Maryland-based Athletic Equipment Manufacturer Ordered to Pay \$314,000 in Penalties and Restitution

Tiffin Athletic Mats Sold Equipment to Individual Consumers, Schools, and Nonprofits, But Never Provided Them

BALTIMORE, MD (June 6, 2025) – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown announced today that his Consumer Protection Division has issued a [Final Order](#) against Gerald Stringer, who owned and operated Elkton-based Tiffin Athletic Mats, for violating the Consumer Protection Act by selling athletic equipment to consumers, nonprofits, and schools in Maryland and outside of Maryland without providing the promised equipment or refunds.

The Consumer Protection Division’s Final Order prohibits Stringer from taking payments from a consumer, including schools and nonprofits, before providing services unless he first posts a surety bond in the amount of \$300,000 with the Consumer Protection Division; it also requires Stringer to pay a \$174,000 penalty and return all of the monies the company collected from consumers for purchased athletic equipment that was not provided. The Division had entered into two prior settlements with Daniel and Bradely Tiffin, the company’s prior owners, in which they too agreed to pay restitution to harmed consumers. The Tiffins sold their company to Stringer in 2017.

“This case underscores our commitment to protecting Maryland consumers, including the schools and nonprofits that trusted this company with their hard-earned fundraising dollars,” **said Attorney General Brown**. “Tiffin Athletic Mats’ deceptive practices not only violated consumer protection laws but also betrayed the trust of young athletes and the communities that supported them.”

Stringer sold athletic equipment under various names including Tiffin Mats, Inc. and Tiffin Athletic Mats, Inc. (Tiffin Mats). Tiffin Mats collected thousands of dollars in advance payments from consumers but failed to provide the equipment. Tiffin Mats frequently misled consumers about its ability to provide the mats and the timing of any deliveries. When consumers requested refunds, Tiffin Mats often misled consumers about the status of their orders and then failed to refund consumers’ payments. Often the monies Stringer collected were from funds raised by school wrestling teams and cheer squads, and his failure to provide purchased mats forced these teams to use older mats or to borrow replacements.

The Office of Administrative Hearings took testimony and evidence from 30 consumers, schools, and nonprofit organizations victimized by Tiffin Mats. Based on this evidence, the Division found that Stringer owed these consumers at least \$139,431.20 for payments they made to Tiffin Mats for equipment that was not provided.

Consumers with questions may call the Consumer Protection's Division's hotline at (410) 528-8662.

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<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2025/060625.pdf>