

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM
THE LOUISIANA PAWNBROKERS ASSOCIATION

In these challenging times the **Louisiana Pawnbrokers Association** (LPBA) is here to assist. Below is vital information concerning pawnshop operations.

The Governor has issued a Proclamation declaring a Public Health Emergency. In compliance with that Declaration, the Office of Financial Institutions has issued an Advisory concerning pawnshop. That Advisory is available on the OFI website: www.ofi.state.la.us

While conditions may change at any time, currently:

- Pawnshops may continue to maintain their normal business hours.
- If a pawnshop is forced to close, move, or in any way is “materially affected,” by this emergency that shop should contact OFI immediately. OFI’s phone number is 1-888-525-9414. OFI may also be contacted via their e-mail at ofiland@ofi.la.gov.
- If you must relocate or close, OFI should be provided information it may relay to your customers.

Please note that if your business is forced to close, whether simply by necessity, or as mandated by an Emergency Declaration, **the maturity date of loans is affected**. The Louisiana Pawnshop Act provides:

In the event the pawnshop is not open for business on the maturity date, then the forfeiture date shall be the day immediately

following the next business day the pawnshop is open after the maturity date.

Thus, if during closure, a loan matures, then default does not occur until “the day immediately following” the first day you reopen. In these difficult times, the LPBA strongly recommends you provide customers at least six business days (including Saturdays) after you reopen to redeem pledged items. Further, some pawnshops are discussing a voluntary waiver of interest from closure to reopening. We recommend you review the LPBA Code of Ethics on our website:

www.louisianapawnbrokers.net

In an emergency , OFI has the authority to “delay compliance” by pawnbrokers with OFI license renewals. The LPBA will keep all of its members posted as to any such decisions by OFI.

The LPBA is also monitoring any opportunities for emergency assistance to impacted businesses such as yours. The LPBA will provide detailed information to all of its members when available.

This communication is provided as a service by the LPBA alone and does not express the views of any other individual or public body. This communication is general in nature and not a legal opinion and should not be utilized as one.