



Roy Cooper North Carolina Attorney General

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Vending machine restorer banned from operating in NC, AG Cooper says *Court orders temporary restraining order against Antiquities Vending*

Raleigh: A restoration company that repeatedly failed to complete work or return antiques to consumers is temporarily banned from operating in North Carolina, Attorney General Roy Cooper announced today.

“Taking money from consumers and then failing to finish the job is simply the wrong way to do business,” Cooper said. “If you pay a professional for work, they should get it done or refund your money.”

Under a temporary restraining order signed today by Wake County Superior Court Judge Donald Stephens, Antiquities Vending Company and its owner Alan Huffman are barred from business in North Carolina. The defendants cannot advertise or collect payment from North Carolina consumers for antique restoration work, and cannot take advance payments for machine restoration work in the state.

Based in Granite Falls, North Carolina, Antiquities Vending Company also operated under the name Antique Vending. The company accepted business from consumers across the country and abroad.

Earlier this week, Cooper filed a lawsuit against Antiquities Vending and Mr. Huffman, asking the court to order the defendants to return all unshipped packages or reimburse consumers for the value of their contents. The Attorney General’s Office filed the lawsuit based upon complaints from 54 consumers who hired Antiquities Vending complained that the company failed to complete the work on time, provided false updates and shipping estimates, and never returned their property or provided refunds.

Cooper’s Consumer Protection Division heard from several consumers who said that Huffman misled them about when their restoration work would be completed and avoided their attempts to contact him about missed deadlines. In other instances, Huffman responded to concerned consumers by insisting that their antiques were on their way and provided copies of shipping labels as proof, but the shipping companies said no such shipments had been scheduled. After paying thousands of dollars in upfront deposits, many consumers waited months or even years beyond the completion date initially promised by Huffman without receiving their machine or a refund.

Any North Carolina consumer who hired Antiquities Vending without receiving their property or a refund is encouraged to file a complaint with the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division. Help is available toll-free within North Carolina at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM. Consumers can also file a complaint online at ncdoj.gov.

“If you’re doing business with a company online or over the phone, check them out thoroughly before you give them your hard-earned money,” Cooper said. “Contact our office, your local Better Business Bureau, and look for customer reviews online to get a better sense of who you’re doing business with.”

Cooper’s office has more tips on doing [research before you pay](#) money.

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