

Section 719.148 – Pawnbrokers and Precious Metal Dealers

- A. The Township of Lenox recognizes that some uses have serious objectionable operational characteristics, particularly when several of them are concentrated under certain circumstances, and they can have a deleterious effect on the use and enjoyment of adjacent areas.

In connection with the adoption of this Chapter, the Township has received information that certain types of skid-row businesses, including pawnbrokers and used goods businesses, have, through studies in the City of Detroit, been found to have deleterious effects on the use and enjoyment of adjacent areas, including information associating blight. Special regulations of these uses are necessary to ensure that these adverse effects will not contribute to the blighting or downgrading of the surrounding neighborhoods. Furthermore, Lenox Township finds that the use of services provided by pawnbrokers and precious metal dealers presents an opportunity for the commission of crimes, notwithstanding State and Federal regulations.

The purpose of this Section is to minimize the impact on surrounding neighborhoods, minimize the commission of crimes associated therewith, and assure that such businesses comply with these requirements as well as State and Federal regulations, thereby protecting the public health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Lenox Township.

B. Definitions:

1. Pawnbroker: Any person, partnership, or corporation, either as a principal, agent, or employee thereof, who loans money on deposit or pledge of personal property or other valuable thing and who deals in the purchasing of personal property or other valuable thing on condition of selling the same back at a stipulated price, or who loans money secured by mortgage on personal property, taking possession of the property or any part thereof so mortgaged.
2. Precious Metal Dealer: Any person, partnership, or corporation, either as a principal, agent, or employee thereof, who purchases or sells any jewelry containing gold, silver, platinum, or any precious gem, as defined in MCLA.

C. This Section does not apply to or include the following:

1. The sale is held on property principally occupied as a dwelling by the seller, provided that the sale does not exceed 72 consecutive hours.
 2. None of the items offered for sale have been purchased for resale or received on consignment for resale.
 3. The sale of bona fide antiques or collectibles, including secondhand books, magazines, and films.
- D. A pawnbroker may be allowed by a special land use permit in the LI (Light Industrial) and the HI (Heavy Industrial) zoning districts.
- E. A precious metal dealer may be allowed by a special land use permit in the GB (General Business) zoning district.
- F. No pawnbroker or precious metal dealer shall be situated within 2000' of any church, park, or school.
- G. No pawnbroker or precious metal dealer shall be situated within 2000' of an existing pawnbroker or precious metal dealer.