

by which the debtor agrees to pay a certain amount of money periodically to the other, who for consideration distributes the money among specified creditors in accordance with an agreed plan.

(b) A person may not engage in the business of debt adjusting.

(c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both.

(d) This section does not apply to the following when engaged in the regular course of their respective businesses and professions:

(1) A lawyer;

(2) A bank or fiduciary, authorized to transact business in this State and perform credit and financial adjusting service in the regular course of its principal business;

(3) A title insurer or abstract company, while doing an escrow business;

(4) A judicial officer or a person acting under a court order;

(5) A nonprofit, religious, fraternal, or cooperative organization that offers debt management service exclusively for members, if a charge is not made and a fee is not imposed;

(6) A certified public accountant; and

(7) A trade or mercantile association in the course of arranging the adjustment of debts with a business establishment.]

Article - Financial Institutions

SUBTITLE 9. MARYLAND DEBT MANAGEMENT SERVICES ACT.

12-901.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "CONSULTATION FEE" MEANS A FEE PAID BY A CONSUMER TO A DEBT MANAGEMENT SERVICES PROVIDER IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROCESSING OF ANY APPLICATION THAT THE CONSUMER MAKES FOR DEBT MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

~~(B)~~ (C) "CONSUMER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

(1) RESIDES IN THE STATE; AND

(2) IS SEEKING DEBT MANAGEMENT SERVICES OR HAS ENTERED INTO A DEBT MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT.