

Celebrity jeweler admits to falsifying records, lying to feds

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DETROIT -- The New York City celebrity jeweler known as the " **King of Bling** " will plead guilty in Detroit Wednesday to falsifying records and making false statements to federal agents, his lawyer said today.

In return, the federal government will drop money-laundering charges against Jacob Arabov, 42, who has sold jewel-encrusted watches to Madonna, Elton John and much of the hip-hop world.

Arabov was indicted in June 2006, accused of helping an alleged drug gang called the Black Mafia Family, founded by two Detroit brothers, to launder some of their more than \$270 million in alleged drug profits.

Under a plea agreement, Arabov would face a sentencing guideline range of about three to four years in prison and a \$2 million fine, Arabov lawyer Benjamin Brafman said in a prepared statement Friday.

Sentencing guidelines are advisory and the actual sentence Arabov receives would be up to U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn.

"I realize I have made a terrible mistake and I am ready to accept the consequences of my actions," Arabov said in a statement released by his attorney.

"My desire is to do whatever I can to atone for my wrongdoings and move ahead with the great business I have built and the wonderful family that I love."

Brafman said Arabov is an honest man who "used bad judgment in an attempt to conceal dealings with a small group of individuals."

The charges Arabov will plead guilty to, which were filed in U.S. District Court in Detroit today, allege he submitted false documents to the Drug Enforcement Administration and made false statements to DEA agents.

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