

e-News

Release

Nevada State Contractors Board

www.nscb.state.nv.us



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Two Alleged Unlicensed Contractors Cited In Southern Nevada Sting

Boris Slepokourov, dba Vegas Improvements, bragged that he had developed new painting techniques, painted several celebrities' homes and was currently busy working on an apartment complex at Charleston and Jones Boulevards in Las Vegas. So when he said he would paint the interior of a 2,000 square-foot house for \$3,000, Slepokourov thought the homeowner would be so impressed with his credentials that he would jump at the deal. The homeowner, a NSCB criminal investigator, did and even went the extra step by going to the apartment complex to issue Slepokourov a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

Daniel Jackson had placed an advertisement on Craigslist for electrical work and was surprised when someone called him. No one ever responded to his ad before. The caller, a NSCB investigator, said he needed two exterior 110-volt electrical outlets installed. Jackson submitted a bid for \$375 and was promptly issued a criminal citation for *contracting and advertising without a license*. Jackson also misinformed the investigator by stating that no permit was needed because the electrical work was a "small job."

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“These stings are done in an effort to free our neighborhoods of unlicensed contractors, who prey on innocent consumers,” said Margi Grein, Executive Officer of the Nevada State Contractors Board. “Consumers need to be careful before inviting a contractor into their home. Always check out their license first.

“Unlicensed contractors can cost consumers thousands of dollars. They carry no insurance, are not bonded and have not met any standards of the trade they may be performing.”

Contracting without a license in Nevada is a misdemeanor for the first offense, a gross misdemeanor for the second offense and a Class E felony for the third offense. Homeowners who use unlicensed contractors are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund, and by law their contracts are null and void.

The NSCB urges consumers to follow these simple tips when dealing with a contractor:

- **Hire only licensed contractors. Ask to see their NSCB license.**
- **Don't rush into decisions or hire someone without checking out potential contractors.**
- **Be especially wary when approached by someone offering door-to-door home improvements.**
- **Verify the contractor's license by checking online at: www.nscb.state.nv.us or calling: (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada.**

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- **Ensure the contractor is properly licensed for the work you want done on your home.**
- **Limit your down payment or deposit to 10 percent of the total contract.**
- **Don't pay cash without obtaining signed receipts, and don't let the payments get ahead of the work.**

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