

e-News

Release

Nevada State Contractors Board

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Contact: Art Nadler,
Public Information Officer
(702) 486-1100 x1139
or (775) 688-1141 x1139

Six Alleged Unlicensed Contractors Cited In Northern Nevada

Rigoberto J. Cardenas-Aguayo, dba Rigo's Lawn Services, was worried another contractor would steal his business, so he quickly provided a \$2,712.50 bid for concrete work.

"I can do concrete. I can do pavers and stamped concrete. I will beat his price," an excited Cardenas-Aguayo said. His only problem was that the person he gave the bid to was a NSCB investigator, and he is not unlicensed. Cardenas-Aguayo was quickly issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

As a frustrated Cardenas-Aguayo walked away, he blurted out, "I wasted my time for nothing." Not really. He learned he needed a contractor's license to do business in Nevada.

Diosdado M. Manabat, aka Danny and dba Danny Manabat Journeyman Certified Plumber, allegedly was already installing sprinklers and three large concrete patios at a Reno home when he gave a NSCB investigator a \$6,500 bid to install pavers. The Board investigator issued Manabat a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*, and the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation issued Manabat a violation notice for not carrying Workman's Compensation insurance on two of his alleged laborers.

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Steven G. Daniel was advertising on Craigslist that he could do vinyl, carpet, laminate, linoleum and tile installations. When he submitted a \$1,650 bid for the installation of tile to a NSCB investigator, he was quickly issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

Antonio Ramirez-Montano, dba Two Guys Landscaping, brought his brother along to help translate, when he submitted a \$1,500 bid to a NSCB investigator for the installation of pavers. He had been placing business cards on doors in the Carson City area, which is a common practice of unlicensed contractors. Ramirez-Montano, whose activities were brought to the attention of the Board by a licensed contractor, was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

Wayland Noblett, dba Wayland Works, was advertising on a Reno bulletin board that he could do painting, patios and decks, interior construction and repairs, carpentry and framing. He and his partner, Scott Wells, allegedly told a NSCB investigator that they were out-of-work carpenters who could do concrete. Noblett submitted a \$4,500 bid for a concrete project and was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*. When cited he said, "This is something else. I didn't know you can't advertise trades without a license. I can't believe you did that to me."

Noblett was wrong on two counts. You have to be licensed in the trade you want to do business, and you can't advertise for that trade unless you are licensed.

Eduardo Serratos-Hurtado, dba EBS Repair Solutions, was advertising in the Reno area that he could do plumbing, HVAC, electrical and painting. He allegedly sent a licensed contractor to a NSCB sting house to submit a painting bid. Serratos-Hurtado was eventually located at his place of employment and issued a criminal citation for *advertising without a license*.

"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," stated Margi Grein, Executive Officer of the Nevada State Contractors Board. "Enforcement stings like these are conducted by the NSCB to help rid our neighborhoods of these unscrupulous people."

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.**
- **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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