

e-News

Release

Nevada State Contractors Board

www.nscb.state.nv.us



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Contractors Board Cites Five Alleged Unlicensed Contractors

Robert G. Freetly, dba A-Team Handyman, was recently cited by a NSCB investigator in Reno for *contracting without a license*. Freetly submitted a \$3,485 painting bid to the investigator. He was advertising in a local newspaper that "*Carpentry is My Specialty*," and said he did crown molding, window replacement, remodels, custom closets, flooring, painting, pressure washing, fences and landscaping.

Freetly placed his active residential & small commercial license on inactive status more than a year ago and subsequently has been allegedly doing business as an unlicensed contractor.

Fred J. Angeney, dba FJA House Doctor, bragged that he painted a 8,000 square-foot house in Montreal and several houses on the same street in the exclusive residential area. Besides painting, Angeney advertised that he did plumbing, dry wall installation, electrical work, wood decks and concrete. He submitted a \$1,900 painting bid to a NSCB investigator and was immediately issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

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Anthony R. Hernandez of Reno was advertising on Craigslist that he could do masonry and landscaping. Without measuring the property, he submitted a \$1,500 paving bid to a NSCB investigator. Hernandez was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

Mark A. Davidson, dba Mark the Handyman, advertised on Craigslist that he gave free online advice, free consultations and free written bids. He said he did everything - painting, plumbing, electrical work, sheetrock installation, landscaping, floors, etc. But when the alleged unlicensed contractor was asked to bid on a painting project, he said it was too big to do. Davidson also said he wasn't qualified to bid on electrical and plumbing jobs a NSCB investigator asked him to perform. Davidson was cited for advertising without a license, and later informed the investigator that he was removing his advertisement from Craigslist.

Phillip Darval, dba Phil Can Fix It, recently placed an advertisement in the Big Nickel newspaper in Reno stating that he did painting, electrical work, flooring, fencing and remodeling. He said he had 28 years experience, but unfortunately he wasn't licensed to do any of these trades. Upon submitting a \$1,950 painting bid to a NSCB investigator, Darval was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

“These stings should serve as a warning that the NSCB is serious about cracking down on unlicensed contractors,” said Margi Grein, Executive Officer for the Board.

“Consumers should not be taken in by promises of cheap work performed by unlicensed contractors. In reality it may cost more, and the consumer is left with little or no protection.”

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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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