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Unlicensed Contractor Daniel Jackson Sentenced To Jail



Jackson

Daniel Wayne Jackson, recently arrested on a felony warrant for *diversion of funds* and a misdemeanor charge of *contracting without a license*, was sentenced to 180 days in the Lyon County Jail on Nov. 13, 2006, after changing his plea from not guilty to guilty. Jackson was also ordered to pay \$19,000 in restitution to a homeowner and investigative costs to the Nevada State Contractors Board. The Northern Nevada Special Investigations Unit of the Board assisted in Jackson's apprehension. It had been investigating him since December 2005.

Jackson had contracted with a Moundhouse homeowner to build an addition onto his house. The homeowner paid three payments totally \$19,000 on an original contract of \$27,000. Jackson only poured a concrete footing and then abandoned the project. A prior warrant had been issued on Jackson by the Dayton Justice Court for *failure to appear* regarding *contracting without a license* on this same project.

The Contractor Interagency Task Force is hard at work tracking offenders and informing the public of their rights and responsibilities. The task force members include: the Reno Police Department, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Nevada Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, Washoe County Building Department, Lyon County Sheriff's Office, OSHA, the

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Nevada State Contractors Board, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Silver State Masonry, Builders Association of Western Nevada, United Construction Co., the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Washoe County, Moana Nursery, State of Nevada Attorney General's Office, Washoe County Roads and Basalite Concrete Products.

Homeowners are advised that it is against the law to be an unlicensed contractor in the State of Nevada. First offense is a *misdemeanor*, second offense a *gross misdemeanor* and third offense a *Class E felony*.

Homeowners, who use the services of an unlicensed contractor, or those of a revoked or suspended contractor, are not eligible for recovery of their damages through the Residential Recovery Fund. **The NSCB urges the public to hire only licensed contractors in good standing with the Board.**

Consumers can verify contractors' licenses and obtain helpful tips for working with contractors by calling (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada, or (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada. Licenses can be verified 24 hours a day by logging on to **www.nscb.state.nv.us**.

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

- Hire only licensed contractors. Ask to see the license.
- Don't rush into decisions or hire without checking out potential contractors.
- Be especially wary when approached by someone offering home improvements door-to door.
- Verify the contractor's licensed by checking online at www.nscb.state.nv.us or via automated phone service at (702) 486-1100 (Southern Nevada), or (775) 688-1141 (Northern Nevada).
- Ensure the contractor is properly licensed for the work you want done on your home.
- Limit the amount of 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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