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Unlicensed Contractors Who Target Mesquite Become Target of Undercover NSCB Sting

Miguel Dominguez, dba M&E Handyman & Construction, tried to convince an undercover NSCB investigator in Mesquite, NV, that the photos he was showing him were for work done in Las Vegas. But the snow on the ground and a Colorado license plate on a truck were a dead giveaway. Dominguez then admitted that he had just moved to Southern Nevada, when he presented a \$1,750 bid for a concrete sidewalk and pavers to the investigator. He was immediately issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

Brent Copeland, dba Advanced Water Treatment Systems, traveled all the way from St. George, Utah, to present a \$1,150 bid to an NSCB investigator for the installation of a water softener and reverse osmosis system. The licensed Utah contractor arrived early and even offered his pen to the investigator, when he was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

Shane McCoy, dba HRS Handyman and Repair Service, advertises his home entertainment system services in a full-page color advertisement in a local Mesquite magazine. He gave an NSCB investigator a \$4,300 bid along with a detailed drawing of how a new entertainment system would look installed. The NSCB investigator accepted the bid and then presented him with a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

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All three contractors have been given hearing dates to appear in Mesquite Justice Court.

“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.”

The Nevada State Contractors Board offers these 10 tips to protect yourself:

- Hire only licensed contractors.
- Check the contractor’s license number by calling the Nevada State Contractors Board at: (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada, or check online at: **www.nscb.state.nv.us**
- Get three references and review past work.
- Get at least three bids.
- Get a written contract and do not sign anything until you completely understand the terms.
- Pay 10 percent down or \$1,000, whichever is less, if a deposit is required.
- Don’t let payments get ahead of the work. Keep a record of all payments.
- Don’t make a final payment until you are satisfied with the job.
- Don’t pay cash.
- Keep a job file of all papers relating to your project.

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