



NEVADA STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD

NEWS RELEASE

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NEVADA STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD LAUNCHES SPECIALIZED SOLAR INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Las Vegas/Reno, Nev. – Due to the growing number of complaints related to residential solar filed by homeowners across the state, the Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) recently announced it has launched a specialized Solar Investigations Unit. Its primary purpose is to target solar companies with complaints involving theft, fraud, abandonment, diversion of funds, and unlicensed contracting.

“Of the 3,000 complaints the Board receives annually, nearly one-third are homeowner complaints about solar companies,” said Nevada State Contractors Board Executive Officer Margi Grein. “Complaints include misleading sales tactics with promised benefits such as rebates, government incentives, and the complete eradication of electric bills.”

The NSCB has taken steps to create a higher level of accountability by holding expedited meetings with companies that have harmed homeowners and by pursuing criminal investigations against individuals when appropriate. In April 2024, the Board worked with law enforcement to capture and arrest Lifetime Solar company contractor Derrick Carbajal. Criminal investigators with the NSCB’s Special Investigations-Fraud Unit allege that during the past two years, Carbajal took nearly \$250,000 from unsuspecting elderly homeowners and never performed any work. The case is so egregious that the NSCB presented it to the Office of the Nevada Attorney General for prosecution.

The NSCB Solar Investigations Unit is partnering with prosecutorial agencies throughout the state to provide increased consumer protection regarding solar scams, deceptive loans, and aggressive sales tactics. The unit will also regularly meet with representatives from a variety of other state agencies and regulatory bodies to collaboratively work towards finding fair and effective solutions as Nevada is one of many states that has experienced an increase in solar complaints.

In addition to increased oversight of the residential solar industry, an important component of the NSCB Solar Investigations Unit is public outreach, which includes homeowner workshops that provide information and education on hiring only licensed contractors; red flags to look out for to prevent falling victim to solar installation

scams; and 'how to' information on applying for the Board's Residential Recovery Fund, which offers financial assistance to those harmed by licensed contractors.

The Board reminds homeowners to only hire licensed contractors to receive the Board's full protections. "By staying vigilant, verifying credentials, and carefully reviewing contracts, homeowners can safeguard themselves from falling victim to unlicensed contractors.

Homeowners can easily verify a contractor's license by visiting the NSCB website at www.nscb.nv.gov to ensure that the contractor is licensed for the work to be performed. For more information on NSCB Solar Investigations Unit or to [file a complaint](#), homeowners should contact the NSCB at (702) 486-1100 (Southern Nevada) or (775) 688-1141 (Northern Nevada).

"We are sending a message to the residential solar industry that protecting consumers is at the forefront of our mission and we will take whatever measures are necessary to continue protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public," said Grein.

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The Nevada State Contractors Board is committed to ensuring the integrity and professionalism of the construction industry in Nevada. The NSCB has the responsibility to promote quality construction by Nevada licensed contractors through a regulatory licensing system designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. For more information about the Nevada State Contractors Board, please visit www.nscb.nv.gov.

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