



Nevada State Contractors Board

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Art Nadler,
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Senior Citizens Alert

Often times that nice young man who reminds you of your grandson and offers to put a new roof on your house, landscape the backyard, remodel a room, or paint the outside of your home may be interested in only one thing - taking your hard-earned savings or Social Security money without doing the work.

For as many senior citizens as we have in town, there also are that many unscrupulous people who try to take advantage of them, according to the Nevada State Contractors Board. Senior citizens are often victims because they live alone. But they don't have to be. The Contractors Board is available to protect them, if they contact the Board and file a complaint.

More than 1,000 unscrupulous contractors were prosecuted last year. It is a crime to conduct business without a contractor's license *anywhere* in

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Nevada. First offense is a misdemeanor, second offense a gross misdemeanor and the third offense is a Class E felony.

Investigators with the Board say many senior citizens are embarrassed to report that they have been victims of an unlicensed contractor, or a licensed contractor who has done poor workmanship. The Board emphasizes that all complaints they receive are kept confidential and senior citizens need not worry that their children, other relatives or friends will find out.

The Board acts on a complaint for up to four years on a licensed contractor, and investigators also actively pursue unlicensed contractors.

Seniors don't have to be a victim. The Nevada State Contractors Board has some tips you can follow to protect yourself and your family:

- Hire only licensed contractors. Get the contractor's license number and verify it by calling (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada. You can also go online at: **www.nscb.state.nv.us**
- Take your time before making a decision to hire a contractor
- Get at least three bids
- Check references
- Get the contract in writing. Accept no verbal bids. Make sure all changes to the contract are in writing.

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To assist senior citizens in knowing and understanding their rights when dealing with contractors, the Nevada State Contractors Board has developed a 30-minute Senior Citizens Awareness Program, which is available to all senior citizens' groups. The following presentations have been scheduled for Southern Nevada:

- Dec. 1, 2005; 10 a.m.; Las Vegas Senior Center, 451 E. Bonanza Road, Las Vegas.
- Jan. 18, 2006; 11:15 a.m.; Walnut Recreation Center, 3075 N. Walnut Road, Las Vegas.
- Feb. 9, 2006; 1 p.m.; Doolittle Senior Center, 1950 "J" Street, Las Vegas.
- March 20, 2006; noon; E. Las Vegas Senior Center, 250 N. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas
- March 21, 2006; 11 a.m.; Parkdale Senior Center, 3200 Ferndale St., Las Vegas
- July 2006; (time TBA); Lieburn Senior Center, 6230 Garwood Ave., Las Vegas.

To schedule a Senior Citizen Awareness Program in Northern Nevada, or to find out about one, call the Nevada State Contractors Board at: (775) 688-1141.

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