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Unlicensed Contractor Defrauds Homeowners and Contractors

Bills Paving Designs, license number 39930, based out of Reno, NV, was revoked on Oct. 9, 2008, for failure to comply with the terms of a construction contract, not responding to written requests from the Board and failure to establish financial responsibility.

As an unlicensed contractor, William H. Lagorio, dba Bills Paving Designs, entered into a contract with a homeowner for the installation of paver stones in the amount of \$5,200. After the homeowner paid Lagorio, he failed to pay the material supplier \$2,667.46.

Lagorio entered into a second contract with another homeowner for the installation of pavers in the amount of \$60,616.30. The homeowner paid Lagorio \$30,000. Again, he failed to pay the material supplier, resulting in a lien being placed against the homeowner for \$25,615.50. The homeowner subsequently paid the material supplier to have the lien released.

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On a complaint filed by a homeowner with the Board, Lagorio pled guilty to felony diversion of funds in Reno District Court Department 8 in May 2009. He was given a suspended prison sentence, fined \$5,000 and placed on probation and ordered to pay Washoe County investigative costs and \$36,177.34 in restitution to the homeowner. Lagorio's probation officer is currently working with the court to arrange payments on this plea.

Lagorio recently pled guilty in Reno Justice Court to *contracting without a license* on a misdemeanor warrant for failure to pay a \$635 fine and investigative costs stemming from a sting conducted by the Board. Lagorio had provided a \$9,200 bid to an undercover NSCB criminal investigator for the installation of pavers. He has been ordered by the court to pay \$100 a month until the fine is paid.

"It is important for consumers to check the license status of any company they wish to hire at our website: www.nscb.state.nv.us ," Margi Grein, Executive Officer of the NSCB, says. "Enforcement stings like this, on revoked licensees, are conducted by NSCB investigators on a continuous basis and help rid our neighborhoods of unscrupulous contractors."

A contractor's license status can also be verified by calling: (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada. The Board recommends that consumers limit a down payment to 10 percent of the total cost, don't let payments get ahead of the work, and don't pay in cash without obtaining signed receipts.

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