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Five Unlicensed Southern Nevada Contractors Stung

Five unlicensed contractors, who thought they could get around the law without being licensed, recently were surprised to find out that the homeowner they visited was an undercover Nevada State Contractors Board criminal investigator.

Benny E. Trevino and **Marcos Antonio Hernandez-Garcia** submitted separate bids for electrical work and were given criminal citations for *contracting without a license*.

Jose Luis Nava received a criminal citation for *unlawful advertising*. He had been advertising his services on Craigslist, which is frequently used by unlicensed contractors to solicit business.

Efrain Martinez-Santiago, dba Mendoza Landscaping, and **Mark E. Hamilton, dba Unique Landscaping**, submitted separate bids for landscaping and were given criminal citations for *contracting without a license*.

“Unlicensed contractors hurt the economy and pose a serious liability for the people who hire them” said Margi Grein, Executive Officer of the Nevada State Contractors Board. “These stings are done in an effort to free our neighborhoods of unlicensed contractors, who prey on innocent consumers.”

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The NSCB urges consumers to check whether a contractor is licensed by calling: (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada. License checks can also be conducted on the NSCB website at: **www.nscb.state.nv.us**

Contracting without a license in Nevada is a misdemeanor for the first offense, a gross misdemeanor for the second offense and a Class E felony for the third offense. Homeowners who use unlicensed contractors are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund, and by law their contracts are null and void.

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