



NEVADA STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTRACTORS' LICENSE REVOKED AFTER 88-YEAR OLD FORCED TO LIVE IN CONVERTED GARAGE DUE TO HOME LEFT IN SHAMBLES FOR MONTHS

LAS VEGAS and RENO, NEV. – An elderly Las Vegas woman has been living in her garage with her son and older dog for months following substandard and incomplete work by a local plumbing contractor, that left her home in disarray. Drews Plumbing, LLC's contractor license was revoked on November 21 by an Order following an earlier Disciplinary Hearing of the Nevada State Contractors Board. In addition to the license revocation, Drews Plumbing been assessed \$34,000 in fines, and ordered to pay investigative fees and costs.

"The actions of Jeffrey Drew and Drews Plumbing in taking thousands of dollars and then leaving an elderly woman's home in shambles is both disturbing and egregious," said NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. "The victim is very frail and it is clear the inexcusable actions of Drews Plumbing, forcing her to sleep on her couch and live in a home without proper plumbing, have taken a toll on her and her family."

NSCB Investigators found Jeffrey Drew, principal of Drews, had left an 88-year old Las Vegas woman with a mostly unlivable home for eight months while collecting over \$28,000 from the victim through direct and third-party payments. In March of 2022, the licensed contractor was hired after providing an estimate of \$18,000 to fix a leak in the victim's home. Drews proceeded to demolish much of the home's flooring and jackhammer trenches throughout most of the house to remove drainpipes. The victim and her sons were forced to move into a converted den in their garage during the repairs. A bathroom in the den has served as the only functioning water source inside the home.

"The Board will continue to take swift and punitive action against both unlicensed and licensed contractors alike who victimize our elderly population," Grein continued. "We hope the outcome of this case sends a clear message to the industry that we take our mission to protect the health and safety of the public seriously and will not tolerate fraudulent activities that endanger Nevadans."

(more)

As a result of the Board's investigation, 12 allegations of violations were found against Drews Plumbing and the contractor was served a Notice of Hearing. At the disciplinary hearing, the Board established over \$28,000 had been spent by the victim and she was forced to refinance her home to cover the costs. The investigator who visited the home noted that beyond the den area where the victim and her son lived, the home was unlivable. Additionally, the victim and her son had to endure more than eight months (including during the heat of the summer) in a converted garage as her other ailing son, recovering from cancer, was forced to move elsewhere.

After reviewing the case, Administrative Law Judge Noah Allison found Drews guilty of 10 of the 12 allegations. Drews Plumbing's license was revoked and the contractor was ordered to pay \$34,000 in fines as well as the Board's investigative fees and costs. As the victim contracted with a licensed contractor, she will have the opportunity to seek financial remediation through Nevada's Residential Recovery Fund.

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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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