



ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS



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Media Advisory

AZ Registrar of Contractors Conducts Sting of Unlicensed Contractors in Willcox

In January 2013, the Registrar of Contractors (ROC) conducted an undercover sting operation in the Willcox area. The sting resulted in the investigation of 10 cases of unlicensed contracting. The ROC refers unlicensed contracting cases to the appropriate county attorney's office for prosecution.

In Arizona a person commits a Class 1 Misdemeanor by (1) advertising to perform services that require a contractor's license, and/or (2) acting in the capacity of a contractor without a license.

The Registrar of Contractors routinely investigates unlicensed contracting by conducting stings, and investigating unlicensed contractor advertising in newspapers, magazines, tradeshow and online bulletin boards such as craigslist. Craigslist is a valuable tool and is used by many licensed contractors to advertise. Unfortunately, many unlicensed contractors also use craigslist to post illegal and deceptive advertisements.

"Protecting the people of Arizona from illegal contracting is a top priority", said William Mundell, Director of the Arizona Registrar of Contractors.

The Registrar of Contractors advises homeowners to protect themselves by:

- Consulting the ROC, www.azroc.gov, to ensure the contractor is licensed.
- Asking for written estimates from at least three contractors.
- Requesting a list of references, and checking them before agreeing to hire anyone.
- Making sure the scope of the project, the price, the responsibility to obtain building permits, and any other relevant terms are spelled out in a written contract.
- Never paying in cash, and not allowing payments to get ahead of the work.
- Avoiding contractors who require large upfront payments.
- Never making a hurried decision. No reputable contractor will pressure you into a quick hiring decision.

Other tips about hiring qualified contractors can be found at www.azroc.gov.

For more information, or to request an interview with Director Mundell, contact Tyler Palmer, Chief of Staff for the Arizona Registrar of Contractors at (602) 771-6710.

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