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Watch Out For Unlicensed Contractors On Craig's List

Jerry W. Higgins boasted in his advertisement on Craig's List that he was an "experienced electrician," and arrogantly told an undercover NSCB criminal investigator in Reno that he could do the job for less than a licensed contractor. When asked why he never obtained a Nevada State Contractors Board C-2 electrician's license, Higgins simply said, "I'm not interested because I am only doing this part-time." The NSCB investigator, however, was working fulltime and issued him a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

James T. Roberts, allegedly working as an unlicensed plumber on a home remodel in Reno, was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*. He told an NSCB investigator that he was replacing the bathtub and toilet. The homeowner was issued a stop-work order by the Reno Building Department for not obtaining the proper building permits.

Timothy R. Bailey of Reno was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license* after submitting a \$2,100 bid for interior painting and texturing. Bailey responded to a sting operation from an NSCB investigator inquiring about an advertisement on a local bulletin board for drywall work, painting, tile, carpentry and finish work.

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Homeowners are advised that the Internet and local bulletin boards are frequently used by unlicensed contractors to solicit work.

“These stings should serve as warnings that the NSCB is serious about cracking down on unlicensed contractors,” said Margi Grein, Executive Officer for the Board. “Consumers should not be taken in by promises of cheap work performed by unlicensed contractors. In reality it may cost more, and the consumer is left with little or no protection.

“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**,” she added.

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.

Consumers can 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**

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