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Elegant Kitchen & Bath Owner Keith Laudensack Sentenced On Diversion of Funds Charges



Keith Duane Laudensack, dba Elegant Kitchen & Bath, Inc., a revoked licensee based out of Las Vegas, NV, was sentenced in District Court Dept. 8 on March 21, 2007, on two felony counts of *diversion of funds*. Laudensack was given five years probation on an 18- to 48-month sentence in the Nevada Department of Corrections facility in exchange for signing a civil confession of the judgment, paying \$245,640 in restitution to all damaged parties, submitting to a full financial disclosure, completing financial counseling, completing 10 hours of community service each month of probation and complying with a curfew imposed by the court.

Laudensack had previously plead guilty in Justice Court to *contracting without a license*. On Oct. 18, 2006, the Nevada State Contractors Board paid \$399,991.83 on 33 claims against Elegant Kitchen & Bath, Inc., whose license was revoked in September 2006.

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This conviction came about through extensive investigative work conducted by investigators and administrative staff of the Nevada State Contractors Board in which more than 45 complaints by homeowners were received and processed over a short period of time.

Homeowners who use the services of a revoked or suspended contractor are not eligible for recovery of their damages through the Residential Recovery Fund. The NSCB urges the public to hire only licensed contractors in good standing with the Board. Consumers can verify contractors' licenses and obtain helpful tips for working with contractors by calling (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada, or (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada. Licenses can be verified 24 hours a day by logging on to **www.nscb.state.nv.us**.

The NSCB urges consumers to follow these simple tips when dealing with a contractor:

- **Hire only licensed contractors. Ask to see the license.**
- **Don't rush into decisions or hire without checking out potential contractors.**
- **Be especially wary when approached by someone offering home improvements door-to door.**
- **Verify the contractor's licensed by checking online at www.nscb.state.nv.us or via automated phone service at (702) 486-1100 (Southern Nevada), or (775) 688-1141 (Northern Nevada).**
- **Ensure the contractor is properly licensed for the work you want done on your home.**
- **Limit the amount of your down payment or deposit to 10 percent of the total contract.**
- **Don't pay cash without obtaining signed receipts, and don't let the payments get ahead of the work.**

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