



NEVADA STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EX-SOLAR CONTRACTOR SENTENCED FOR SIGNIFICANT CRIMES AGAINST HOMEOWNERS

Derek Carbajal admitted stealing nearly \$250,000 from Nevada homeowners. A judge ordered him to make restitution to his victims and to the Nevada State Contractors Board.

LAS VEGAS, NEV. – District Court Judge Eric Johnson in Las Vegas on August 27, 2024, sentenced former solar contractor Derek Carbajal for the crime of Engaging in Multiple transactions involving Fraud or Deceit in the course of enterprise or occupation; a category B felony. The judge's sentence included the following:

- 12-90 months in the Nevada Department of Corrections (Suspended)
- 36 months' probation with a search clause and numerous other conditions
- Pay a total of \$245,264 in restitution
- Pay \$113,534 at sentencing to be distributed to victims that were not covered by the Nevada State Contractors Board Residential Recovery Fund.
- Pay the remaining \$131,730 to the Nevada State Contractors Board

"The Nevada State Contractors Board would like to thank the prosecutorial team at the Nevada Attorney General's Office for their continued partnership and unwavering efforts in bringing to justice those that harm our state's homeowners and most vulnerable members of our community," said NSCB Executive Officer David Behar.

Authorities arrested Carbajal in April and he remains in custody.

Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) investigators found that between March 2022 and April 2023, Carbajal operated a scheme that defrauded eight vulnerable homeowners of nearly \$250,000. Carbajal would demand that homeowners pay him at least half of the total cost of a residential solar system as a down payment. In one case, a homeowner gave him more than \$120,000 as a down payment. He would then take the victims' money and never perform any work. "Nevada law stipulates that the down payment for any residential project must be either 10 percent of the total contract or \$1,000, whichever is less. To safeguard your investment, avoid paying a contractor more than this amount upfront," advised Executive Officer Behar.

Carbajal previously operated Lifetime Power Solar Company. The NSCB revoked its license in September 2023.

The NSCB reminds all homeowners planning any type of home project:

- Hire only licensed contractors. Verify licenses at www.NVContractorsBoard.com.
- Always get three bids of the same scope of work.
- Never pay cash. Always pay by check or by credit card.
- Never make a check payable to an individual. It should be made payable to a company.
- Never be pressured to sign a contract. Make sure you understand what you are signing.
- Visit www.NVContractorsBoard.com for consumer information and a complete list of resources.

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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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