

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Liz Brocker
(701) 328-2213

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STENEHJEM BANS COLORADO CONTRACTOR FROM DOING BUSINESS IN NORTH DAKOTA – Brad Harper lists ND business addresses but is not licensed

BISMARCK, ND – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem has issued a cease and desist order banning **Brad Harper**, doing business as **Hawkeye Homes** and **Fox Fire Homes**, from conducting business in the state. Harper lists addresses in Williston and Minot, ND, although he is, in fact, located in Colorado.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection division conducted an investigation following a complaint from a consumer who did not want Harper to continue with the construction of a home in Williston. Investigators discovered that Harper, who had been performing general contractor activities, was not licensed in this state.

Harper responded to the investigator's initial inquiries, admitting that he did not have a contractor's license and did not live in North Dakota. Harper was given an opportunity to obtain the necessary contractor's license in North Dakota, but he refused, and ceased cooperating with the investigators. Harper also did not respond to a demand for information.

"Before hiring or paying any money to a contractor, make sure the contractor is legitimate and is properly licensed. It only takes a couple of minutes to check, but it could save you from losing both money and time," said Stenehjem.

Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection Division, reminded consumers that contractors must be licensed with the Secretary of State's office if they perform work valued at \$4,000 or more.

Consumers can check the Secretary of State's list of licensed contractors online at <http://www.nd.gov/sos/> or by calling (701) 328-2900. Complaints about unlicensed contractors can be filed with the Secretary of State or by contacting the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 701-328-3404.

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