

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CONVICTED FELON WAS OPERATING AN UNLICENSED CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS - Carlson banned from doing business in North Dakota**

BISMARCK, ND – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem has issued a cease and desist order banning Mark Howard Patrick Carlson of Bismarck, doing business as **Perfection Construction**, from conducting business in the state.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection division conducted an investigation after receiving a complaint from a consumer who had made an advance payment of \$15,000 to Carlson to lay a building foundation. Although Carlson moved some dirt at the site, he never started work on the building. Carlson initially cooperated with investigators but after admitting he had entered into multiple contracts without having a contractor's license, he terminated the call and has since ignored the investigator's efforts to reach him. During the investigation it was discovered that Carlson had taken an additional advance payment to lay the foundation of a neighboring building but again did not complete any building work.

"If you want the job done and done properly, then you have to do your homework first," said Stenehjem. "At the very least, before you hand over any money you should make sure the contractor is properly licensed."

Stenehjem also recommends that consumers first obtain and compare written bids from several contractors and get contact information for previous customers to check the quality of the contractor's work.

Carlson, who is a convicted felon with an extensive criminal record, does not have a contractor's license. Contractors must be licensed with the Secretary of State's office if they perform work valued at \$4,000 or more.

Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection Division, said "Given his lengthy criminal record, which includes multiple felony convictions for theft of property, it is highly unlikely that Carlson ever would have been able to get a contractor's license in North Dakota."

Grossman reminded consumers that they can quickly check the Secretary of State's website to see if an individual has a contractor's license, at <http://www.nd.gov/sos/> or by calling that office at (701) 328-2900. A search of criminal court records is available from the ND Supreme Court's website at <http://publicsearch.ndcourts.gov/default.aspx>.

Stenehjem is referring the fraud investigation to the Burleigh County State's Attorney for review for possible criminal charges against Carlson.

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[Mark Carlson Cease & Desist](#)