

THREE UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS BANNED IN ND

Attorney General Issues Cease & Desist Orders against Grant Nelson, Jeff LaFountain, and Thomas Lantto

October 31, 2013

BISMARCK, ND – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem today issued Cease and Desist Orders against three unlicensed contractors for violations of North Dakota’s consumer fraud laws. Grant Nelson, doing business as Service Pro Plumbing, Inc., Jeff Lafountain, doing business as Gittr Done Construction, and Thomas Lantto, doing business as Tom Lantto Builders, are banned from doing business in North Dakota.

The Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division initiated investigations after receiving complaints from consumers regarding the contractors’ failure to properly complete home improvement projects. None of the contractors cooperated with the investigators.

- Grant Nelson, d/b/a Service Pro Plumbing of Yacolt & Battle Ground, Washington, received \$40,825 from three consumers to repair sewer lines and install heating and cooling systems, but failed to properly install the appliances or finish the projects. Nelson has been criminally charged in McKenzie County with nineteen counts of failure to have a plumber’s license.
- Jeff Lafountain, d/b/a Gittr Done Construction, of Dunseith & Mohall, North Dakota, received \$8,994 from a consumer to repair a roof, but he failed to properly complete the repairs. Lafountain later admitted to an investigator that he had also worked on other home improvement projects in the Mohall area.
- Thomas Lantto, d/b/a Tom Lantto Builders, formerly of Williston, North Dakota, received \$12,000 advance deposit to build a garage. Lantto did not order any materials or apply for a building permit, and later refunded the deposit. Lantto has since left North Dakota.

Stenehjem urged consumers to make sure a contractor has the required licenses before making an advance payment. The license, insurance and other state requirements protect the consumer from liability in the event of any worksite injuries. He said there is a correlation between unlicensed contractors and substandard work. “Contractors who are unlicensed usually are more likely to take money and not do the work or not properly complete the work,” Stenehjem said.

North Dakota consumers can submit a complaint form online at www.ag.nd.gov, or by contacting the Consumer Protection Division at 701-328-3404.

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