

September 12, 2005

## **STATE FINES ROBERT STROH FORMERLY DOING BUSINESS AS S & G ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION**

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem has entered into an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance with Bismarck contractor Robert J. Stroh formerly doing business as S & G Roofing & Construction, for misrepresentations arising from his relationship with Harrisburg, Illinois contractor Ellis McEwan, also doing business as “S & G Roofing & Construction.” McEwan was an unlicensed contractor and transient merchant. The agreement settles a pending investigation. Stroh may continue his contractor business under a new name, but he is permanently enjoined from future misrepresentations and has paid a civil penalty of \$1,000.

On August 16, 2005, Stenehjem issued a Cease & Desist Order against Stroh and McEwan. McEwan has since left the state. “McEwan’s activities as an unlicensed roofing and siding contractor were not in the consumers’ best interest. If one of his workers had fallen off the roof, the results could have been catastrophic, for both the injured worker and the homeowner who potentially could be liable,” Stenehjem said.

Stenehjem also was very concerned that Robert Stroh had leased his business name, “S & G Roofing and Construction,” to McEwan, allowing McEwan to misrepresent to consumers that they were dealing with a local company when they engaged his services. “When Stroh permitted McEwan to use his business name of “S & G Roofing,” it was, at best, confusing to consumers and at worst, a misrepresentation,” Stenehjem said.

The illegal activity was discovered August 16 during contractor compliance checks by the Interagency Contractor Task Force including the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division, Workforce Safety & Insurance, Secretary of State Al Jaeger, and Job Service. Stenehjem cautions local contractors against selling their business name and reputation in these circumstances. “They may be assuming financial responsibility for all work performed by the transient merchant, and the consequences could be devastating if consumers have complaints regarding the work after the transient merchant has left the state,” said Stenehjem.

The case was handled by Parrell Grossman, Director of the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division. “This case sends a strong message to unlicensed contractors and local businesses who lease out their business name in these circumstances,” Grossman said.

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