



ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS



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Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

William A. Mundell, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 2, 2015

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News Release

Unlicensed contractor ordered to pay \$14,200 in restitution

In January 2015, Lance Wills pled guilty to Fraudulent Schemes and Artifices (a class 2 felony). The sentence includes:

- \$14,265 in restitution,
- \$2,500 civil citation,
- \$520 in fees,
- 7 years probation,
- 90 days jail, and
- 200 hours community service.

The Mohave County Attorney's office prosecuted Wills after an investigation and referral from the Arizona Registrar of Contractors. The Registrar of Contractor's investigation found that Wills contracted to perform a restoration project at the home of a senior citizen. Wills left the project unfinished and with exposed electrical wires; left construction debris throughout the interior of the home and on the front yard; attempted to double charge the victim by cashing a personal check and a check from the homeowners property insurance; did not pay workers he hired for the project; and left the victims contending against collection activity and construction liens from these unpaid workers.

"Protecting the people of Arizona, especially senior citizens, from illegal contracting and other criminal activity involving contracting is our highest priority", said William Mundell, Director of the Arizona Registrar of Contractors.

The Registrar of Contractors advises homeowners to protect themselves by:

- Reviewing the contractor's license record at (<http://www.azroc.gov/forms/contractorsearch.html>).
- Verifying that the person is an authorized representative of the licensed contractor by calling the contractor's number listed on the ROC license record.
- Asking for written estimates from at least three contractors.
- Requesting a list of references and checking them.
- Making sure the scope of the project, the price, the responsibility to obtain building permits, and any other relevant terms are spelled out in a written contract.
- Never paying in cash, making checks payable to the licensed contractor (not an individual), and not allowing payments to get ahead of the work.
- Avoiding contractors who require large upfront payments.
- Never making a hurried decision.

Other tips about hiring qualified contractors can be found at www.azroc.gov.

For more information, or to request an interview with Director Mundell, contact Tyler Palmer, Chief of Staff for the Arizona Registrar of Contractors at (602) 771-6710.

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