



## ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS



1700 W. Washington St., Suite 105 • Phoenix AZ 85007-2812 • 602-542-1525 • AZ Toll Free 877-692-9762 • Fax 602-542-1599

*Douglas A. Ducey, Governor*

*Jeff Fleetham, Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 11, 2015  
CONTACT: Tyler Palmer, Chief of Staff  
602.771.6710; tyler.palmer@azroc.gov

# News Release

## Person contracting without a license ordered to pay \$135,000 civil penalty

After recent administrative hearings Christopher Lewallen was found to have committed numerous violations of contracting without a license. A person violates state law by (1) advertising to perform services that require a contractor's license, and/or (2) acting in the capacity of a contractor without a license. As a result of these violations, Lewallen was ordered to pay civil penalties totaling \$135,000. These civil penalties are deposited in the State General Fund.

The Registrar of Contractor's investigation found that Lewallen was advertising that his company was able to provide solar power equipment and installation. The 71 contracts from Lewallen's advertising totaled nearly \$2 million dollars.

"Homeowners should hire licensed contractors because licensed contractors have documented experience, and possess a license bond to ensure the job is done right," said Jeff Fleetham, 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](http://www.azroc.gov).

###