



NSCB News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONSUMER ALERT

UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR ADDED TO CONTRACTOR BOARD 'MOST WANTED'

HENDERSON, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) has added unlicensed contractor Manuel Cristales to its 'Top 10 Most Wanted' list after a felony warrant was issued by the Justice Court of Reno Township in the amount of \$15,000 for contracting without a license (NRS 624.700) and diverting funds (NRS 624.750). NSCB is requesting the assistance of the public to contact the Board or their local police department with any information on the whereabouts of Cristales.

Cristales is a white male, approximately 5'6", 180 pounds, with brown eyes and black hair. He operates under the business name Anthony Landscape and Design, drives a brown Toyota van with license plate number 973VUL, and has multiple tattoos, including the names of Selina, Anthony, Ashley, and Leseth on his back. Cristales is known for bidding landscaping projects in excess of \$1,000 and also receiving payments from homeowners and abandoning projects without conducting any work.

Information on Manuel Cristales can be reported to either of the Board's Offices:

Henderson Office
(702) 486-1160

Reno Office
(775) 850-7838

Red flag warnings of unscrupulous contractors:

- Unable to provide a business card/contact information/contractor's license number
- Contractor has "extra" materials from a previous job
- Contractor solicits work because they noticed issues with your home
- Contractor asks to perform a free inspection, followed by a laundry list of repairs that need to be made
- Contractor does not want to put the agreement in writing
- Contractor demands cash payment

Scams such as this have been frequently used by “travelers,” or individuals who move rapidly throughout the states, soliciting to perform work for homeowners, receiving payment prior to the work being performed, and then leaving town before doing so. They often target elderly victims and are known to perform door-to-door solicitations.

NSCB encourages consumers looking for contractors to perform work to follow these ten tips:

1. Only hire licensed contractors.
2. Check the contractor’s license number by utilizing our Online Contractor Search at www.nscb.nv.gov
3. Get three references and review past work.
4. Get at least three bids.
5. Get a written contract and do not sign anything until you completely understand the terms.
6. For pool contracts, pay 10% down or \$1,000 - whichever is less, if a deposit is required.
7. Don’t let payments get ahead of the work. Keep a record of all payments.
8. Don’t make a final payment until you are satisfied with the job.
9. Don’t pay cash.
10. Keep a job file of all papers relating to your project.

Additional information for consumers is available on NSCB’s website at www.nscb.nv.gov

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MEDIA NOTES:

- .jpg file of Cristales attached
- Family of Northern Nevada senior victim who was scammed by a different unlicensed contractor is available for interview. Contact Jennifer Turner for additional information.