



Oregon Construction Contractors Board

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Jury Convicts Man in Construction Fraud and Identity Theft Case

On June 13, 2007, 35-year old Jonathan Lee Oliver of Portland, was sentenced to 13 months in jail after a Washington County jury found him guilty on two counts of Aggravated Theft and one count of Identity Theft in a construction fraud case.

Oliver was contracting to build pole buildings and horse arenas. The Washington County Sheriff's Office was contacted by a homeowner that Oliver solicited a \$34,000 down payment from a property owner, delivered a small amount of work and failed to return the balance. The identity theft charges stem from Oliver stealing the Construction Contractors Board (CCB) license number of a licensed contractor and using that number to solicit business.

Oliver is also facing theft charges in Klamath County for construction fraud.

The CCB began investigating Oliver in 2004 after receiving complaints from homeowners. CCB investigations found Oliver was not licensed and he was issued civil penalties totaling more than \$14,000.

In the recent cases, homeowners in Washington and Klamath counties contacted law enforcement directly and were investigated by the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Special Investigations Unit of the CCB.

In 2000, Oliver was also convicted in New Hampshire for violating consumer protection laws. According to an article written by Lisa Arsenault from the Concord Monitor, Oliver owed over \$625,000 to 1370 customers for pre-paid home heating oil. He was convicted of fraud, ordered to

repay the customers, fined \$100 per customer and banned from taking money prior to delivery of services. These violations were not a criminal offense so no jail time was ordered. According to the newspaper, Oliver filed for bankruptcy four years later.

The CCB is a state agency licensing more than 44,000 contractors. Anyone who is paid to repair, improve or build a home must be licensed by the CCB. Consumers can verify a contractor's license and find information for successful projects at www.hirelicensedcontractor.com or by visiting www.oregon.gov/CCB . Consumers can also get information by calling 503-378-4621.

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