

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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UNLICENCED CONTRACTOR FINED

An unlicensed building contractor has been fined \$7,500 for carrying on business without a licence and failing to take out the required policy of insurance.

The unlicensed contractor, **Milorad Ivanovic**, was convicted in proceedings brought against him by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) after he breached the *Building Work Contractors Act 1995*.

The Court was told how Mr Ivanovic held various building work, supervisor and contractor licences between 1985 and 2005. After 2005 Mr Ivanovic allowed his licences to lapse.

OCBA became aware of the unlicensed contractor when the Beaumont couple lodged a complaint concerning the work.

Between August 2008 and July 2009 Mr Ivanovic performed building work, after entering a contract with the couple, to the amount of \$124,000, including:

- the construction of a garage;
- installation of a retaining wall and;
- installation of a driveway and concrete paths.

The work was not fully completed and the subsequent damage that occurred as a result of this put the consumers to further expense. Mr Ivanovic also performed the building work without the mandatory insurance policy.

Mr Ivanovic pleaded guilty to carrying on business without a licence and performing building work without the required policy of insurance.

Acting Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Anne Gale, warned consumers to take caution when selecting building contractors to complete their home renovations.

“Selecting the right builder to complete your home renovations is imperative – selecting the wrong one may leave you at a financial loss or with incomplete or unsafe work,” Ms Gale said.

“Consumers can protect themselves by checking a trader’s licence card to make sure they are actually qualified to do the job you are engaging them to do.

“All licensed building contractors are also listed on the OCBA website.

“Unlicensed contractors practising without a licence will be caught. I urge South Australian consumers to report suspect builders to OCBA,” the Acting Commissioner said.

The defendant was also ordered to pay prosecution costs of \$800 as well as court costs and the Victims of Crime Levy.

To report concerns about suspected unlicensed builders, or to launch a complaint, contact OCBA on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for regional callers, or visit www.ocba.gov.au.

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