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UNLICENSED SECURITY AGENT PROSECUTED

A 38 year old Kidman Park man appeared before the Adelaide Magistrates Court yesterday charged with operating two unlicensed security agency businesses.

Bryan Richard Kleinberg pleaded guilty to being a director of two companies which each carried on business as a security agent without being licensed to do so. Mr Kleinberg was convicted and fined \$4,000 and ordered to pay costs of \$1,176.25.

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) initiated the court action against Kleinberg following reports received about an unlicensed person performing security guard work at a local Adelaide restaurant and bar.

Kleinberg, who has been unlicensed since 2002 and was ineligible to obtain a licence due to his criminal record, conducted the businesses which provided security for several local businesses along with large food and wine festivals, during 2007 and 2008.

The companies of which Kleinberg was a director, KB Security Pty Ltd and True Security and Protection Pty Ltd, were deregistered in 2009 and 2010 respectively as a result of action taken by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC). Neither company ever held a licence under the Security and Investigation Agents Act 1995.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, David Green was pleased with the outcome. "It sends a strong message to others who wish to engage in dodgy and blatantly dishonest behaviour like Kleinberg, there are repercussions." he said.

"It's critical for businesses to diligently check that appropriate licenses are held by security agents and their staff, for not only the safety and security of patrons, but also the legal ramifications for the business" Mr Green said.

Under the Security and Investigation Agents Act 1995, any person found to have carried on business as a security agent without the appropriate licence faces a maximum penalty of \$20,000.

Businesses or consumers who have concerns or similar suspicions relating to the conduct of security agencies should report their concerns to OCBA on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for country callers or visit the website at www.ocba.sa.gov.au