

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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5 June 2009

DRIVING INSTRUCTOR DEALT COURT CONVICTION

A driving instructor was convicted and fined \$2500 in the Magistrates' Court yesterday for deceiving students into believing they were undertaking log book training.

The Court heard that between about August 2005 and April 2006, driving instructor Naser Jaloudi misled students into the belief that he was qualified to conduct log book training. Jaloudi undertook ten lessons with one student and nine with another before they discovered that they were never doing log book training.

Students raised the alarm with the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) when they discovered that they were not doing the log book training method, despite assurances from Jaloudi that they were. Each had paid over \$300 for those lessons and the instructor was ordered to compensate each of them for the loss.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs Anne Gale says Jaloudi's conviction should serve as a warning to other instructors who may be engaging in deceptive or misleading conduct.

"Driving lessons can cost a lot and consumers deserve piece of mind that their instructor is conducting the lessons according to their qualifications."

"Instructors should be upfront with their students about their learning options, the costs associated, and with their own qualifications and limitations."

OCBA worked closely with the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) during its investigations.

"The advice OCBA received from DTEI on this matter was clear: if you're not accredited, you can't provide log book training."

Misleading a student into believing they are being provided with logbook driving assessment whilst not holding proper accreditation is a breach of the *Fair Trading Act of 1987* which attracts a maximum fine of \$20,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for a body corporate.

For more advice consumers can call OCBA on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for regional callers or visit the website at www.ocba.sa.gov.au.