
From: CSLB Licensees List [mailto:CSLB-LICENSEES@LISTSERV.DCA.CA.GOV] **On Behalf Of** Contractors State License Board
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Subject: Two Repeat Offenders Among 10 Nabbed in Chico Sting

CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD

News Release



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Two Repeat Offenders Among 10 Nabbed in Chico Sting

Jail time a possibility for contracting without a license

SACRAMENTO – Ten illegal operators are headed to court next month following a Contractors State License Board undercover sting operation conducted at a Chico home on April 14, 2011, with investigators from the Butte County District Attorney's Office.

CSLB investigators posed as property owners, inviting suspected illegal operators to bid on home improvement projects such as concrete, landscaping, fencing, painting, and tree trimming. Those who bid more than \$500 received notices to appear in court for contracting without a license. California law requires that all home improvement projects valued at more than \$500 for labor and materials be performed by a licensed contractor.

Some suspects are facing additional charges for illegal advertising and soliciting excessive down payments. State law requires that contractor license numbers be in all advertisements. Those who are not licensed may perform work valued at less than \$500, but their ads must state that they are not a licensed contractor. Contractors are also prohibited by law from soliciting a down payment larger than \$1,000 or 10 percent of the contract price, whichever is less.

This is not the first time Thomas Christopher Chadwick, 38, of Bangor, and Alvaro Barajas Garcia, 45, of Chico, have been caught in a CSLB sting. Both were issued notices to appear during a

September 14, 2010 operation at a Chico mobile home park. Garcia pleaded guilty and was fined \$1,010 for contracting without a license. Chadwick pleaded not guilty and is set for trial on one count of contracting without a license on June 20, 2011. Garcia and Barajas are now charged for a second offense which carries a penalty of up to \$5,000 and at least 90 days in county jail.

“This sting should serve as notice that CSLB and its partners are serious about cracking down on illegal contracting activity in Butte County,” said Registrar Steve Sands.

In addition to the suspects caught in the sting operation, CSLB and the DA’s office will conduct follow-up investigations on at least two licensed contractors who are suspected of having employees who are not covered by workers’ compensation insurance. Contractors are legally required to purchase workers’ comp coverage for all employees to protect homeowners from liability if a worker is injured on their property.

“The Butte County District Attorney’s Office welcomes the opportunity to work with agencies like CSLB to ensure compliance with our state’s consumer protection laws,” said Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey. “It is also critical that Butte County contractors who provide good jobs and pay their proper taxes and insurance are not put at a competitive disadvantage by these illegal operators.”

The following suspects who received notices to appear are scheduled for arraignment on May 13, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in Butte County Superior Court in Oroville:

SUSPECT NAMES AND CITY OF RESIDENCE	AGE	WORK CLASS	VIOLATIONS
Robert Charles Forcinio Oroville	57	Cement	Contracting without a license, soliciting excessive down payment
Joey L. Perkins Oroville	41	Tree Services	Contracting without a license, illegal advertising
Phillip Damian Schmidt Chico	57	Painting	Contracting without a license
Jeffrey Alan Woodward Oroville	42	Painting	Contracting without a license
Christian Stephen Kozak Paradise	25	Tree Services	Contracting without a license, illegal advertising
Thomas Christopher Chadwick Bangor	38	Fencing	Contracting without a license (second offense)
Rickey Adam Venard Magalia	33	Fencing	Contracting without a license
Alvaro Barajas Garcia Chico	45	Landscaping	Contracting without a license (second offense), illegal advertising
Ciro Alberto Sanchez Chico	41	Landscaping	Contracting without a license, illegal advertising, soliciting excessive down payment
Roger Glenn Schulte Jr. Gridley	39	Fencing	Contracting without a license

The Contractors State License Board operates under the umbrella of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. More information and publications about hiring contractors are available on the CSLB website or by calling 800-321-CSLB (2752). You can also sign up for CSLB e-mail alerts at www.cslb.ca.gov. CSLB licenses and regulates California's more than 300,000 contractors, and is regarded as one of the leading consumer protection agencies in the United States. In fiscal year 2009-10, CSLB helped recover nearly \$42 million in ordered restitution for consumers.

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