



For Immediate Release

Contact: Cara Smith

312-814-3118

877-844-5461 (TTY)

csmith@atg.state.il.us

August 28, 2006

MADIGAN: CONTRACTOR SUED FOR ALLEGEDLY NOT STARTING, OR FINISHING, HOME REPAIR PROJECTS AFTER RECEIVING CONSUMERS' DEPOSITS

Chicago - Attorney General Lisa Madigan today filed a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court alleging that a home repair and improvement company collected more than \$6,300 in down payments from eleven Illinois consumers for home exterior work and roof repairs but then either failed to perform any work at all or failed to complete the work as contracted.

Madigan's lawsuit alleges that Jason Norris, individually and d/b/a JLC Roofing & Construction, operating from Frankfort, Illinois, met with consumers in their homes and entered into contracts with them to perform home repair work which included roofing repairs. According to the complaint, JLC repeatedly failed to perform that work as provided in the contract and refused to provide refunds to consumers despite their demands and the demands to do so directly from the Office of the Attorney General.

"A home is the largest investment that most consumers will ever make, and home improvements or repairs can have a huge impact on that long-term investment. When a contractor takes a consumer's hard-earned money and does little or no work, that can be a serious violation of the law," Madigan said.

Madigan's Consumer Protection Division received 11 complaints from consumers in Cook County. Based on these complaints, Madigan's complaint alleges that JLC accepted \$6,300 in down payments for work that it never completed.

In one instance, the JLC entered into a contract to repair a consumer's roof for a price of \$5,516. The consumer made a \$2,750 down payment and JLC began the work. However, JLC stopped the work and never finished the roof. After the consumer's repeated demands to JLC to complete the work or return the down payment and Madigan's office's written demands on behalf of the consumer, JLC refused to complete the work or return the money. In fact, the consumer was forced to hire another contractor under a new contract costing the consumer \$6,196.

In another instance, JLC entered into a \$2,660 contract with a senior citizen to install a roof deck and shingles. JLC accepted a \$1,300 down payment from the consumer but has never started the work or refunded the consumer's down payment.

Madigan alleges JLC failed to provide consumers with notice of their right to cancel the contract within 3-days after signing the contract in their homes and with the home repair consumer's rights pamphlet, both legally required under Illinois law.

Madigan's lawsuit asks the court to prohibit JLC from engaging in the business of home repair and further violating Illinois' consumer protection laws. The lawsuit also seeks to recover a full refund for the consumers. Additionally, the lawsuit seeks a civil penalty of \$50,000, additional penalties of \$50,000 for each violation found to have been committed with the intent to defraud, and an additional \$10,000 penalty per violation committed against a person 65 years of age or older.

Assistant Attorney General Wendell Hayes is handling the case for Madigan's Consumer Fraud Bureau.

-30-

[Return to August 2006 Press Releases](#)