



**For Immediate Release
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MADIGAN SUES ALTON CONTRACTOR FOR FAILURE TO FULFILL HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Chicago - Attorney General Lisa Madigan today filed a lawsuit in Madison County Circuit Court alleging that an Alton contractor collected approximately \$27,000 in down payments for home improvement work that he failed to perform or completed in a substandard manner.

Madigan's suit, against Gary Delp of River Bend Building and Contracting at 502 Porter in Alton, stems from complaints that five consumers made to the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Bureau.

The consumers alleged that Delp entered into verbal contracts to install sewer lines and other home improvements. According to the consumers' complaints, Delp collected down payments ranging from \$2,500 to \$2,900 and then allegedly failed to perform the work or conducted the work in a substandard manner.

"Home repair fraud can be financially devastating for homeowners," Madigan said. "My office is dedicated to protecting consumers from contractors who disregard the law and destroy homeowners' plans to improve their homes."

Madigan's lawsuit alleges that Delp violated the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act and the Illinois Home Repair and Remodeling Act, by performing work in a shoddy and unprofessional manner and failing to provide refunds to consumers. The complaint also alleges that Delp failed to provide homeowners with written contracts and the "Home Repair: Know Your Consumer Rights" pamphlet, as required under Illinois law.

In the suit, Madigan asks the court to prohibit Delp from engaging in the home repair trade and from further violating Illinois' consumer protection laws. The lawsuit seeks restitution for consumers, 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 the recovery of the costs of the prosecution and investigation of the case.

Assistant Attorney General Deborah Sterling-Scott, the Director of the Attorney General's Metro East Illinois Regional Office, is handling the case for Madigan's Consumer Fraud Bureau.

Consumers who believe they have been the victim of a home repair scam or any other consumer fraud can download a complaint form at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/consumers or call the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotline at one of the following numbers:

Chicago 1-800-386-5438; TTY: 1-800-964-3013
Springfield 1-800-243-0618; TTY: 1-877-844-5461
Carbondale 1-800-243-0607; TTY: 1-877-675-9339
Spanish-language Hotline: 1-866-310-8398

-30-

[Return to November 2007 Press Releases](#)