



February 17, 2009

MADIGAN SUES FORD COUNTY ROOFER FOR FAILURE TO FULFILL HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today filed a lawsuit in Ford County Circuit Court alleging that a Gibson City, Ill., contractor solicited roofing contracts without a license and collected up to \$18,090 in fees for work that he failed to perform or completed in a substandard manner.

Madigan's suit alleges that Bryan Brandon, B.F. Roofing and Brandon Finishing entered into contracts for roofing and remodeling services, accepted consumers' down payments and then either failed to perform the work or conducted the work in a substandard manner. The Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Bureau has received seven complaints about Brandon's work from consumers in Champaign, Clinton, DeWitt, Ford, McLean and Vermillion Counties.

"There is no excuse for a home repair company to accept down payments and either fail to perform the work or handle it in a shoddy, unprofessional manner," Madigan said. "Home repair and remodeling complaints rank among the most frequently filed with my office's Consumer Fraud Bureau. As this lawsuit shows, I take these complaints very seriously. And I urge consumers to make sure they're informed and ask the right questions before they hire a contractor in an effort to avoid this type of fraud."

Madigan's lawsuit alleges that Brandon violated the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act and the Illinois Home Repair and Remodeling Act by performing work in a shoddy, unprofessional manner; failing to complete the repair work; and refusing to provide refunds to consumers. The complaint also alleges that Brandon 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 Brandon from engaging in the home repair trade. Madigan's suit also 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, as well as \$10,000 per violation found to have been committed against a senior 65 years or older. The lawsuit also asks the court to require Brandon to pay the costs of the prosecution and investigation of the case.

Assistant Attorney General Louis J. Gale 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

Springfield 1-800-243-0618

Carbondale 1-800-243-0607

Spanish-language Hotline: 1-866-310-8398

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[Return to February 2009 Press Releases](#)

