



February 1, 2010

MADIGAN SUES WILLIAMSON COUNTY CONTRACTOR FOR FAILURE TO FULFILL HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Springfield — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today filed a lawsuit against a Williamson County contractor for allegedly soliciting home improvement contracts from area homeowners without the proper licenses and collecting more than \$47,000 in fees for work that he failed to perform or completed in a substandard manner.

Madigan's suit alleges that Garret Wilson, who operated Residential Construction Services LLC, entered into contracts for home remodeling services and accepted consumers' down payments but did not perform the work as contracted. The Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Bureau has received three complaints about Wilson's work from consumers.

"This contractor received thousands of dollars from consumers and failed to perform the work that they requested," Madigan said. "It is unacceptable to conduct business in this manner."

Madigan's lawsuit alleges that Wilson 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 Wilson 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 Wilson from engaging in the home repair trade in Illinois. Madigan's suit also seeks restitution for consumers, a civil penalty of \$50,000 and additional penalties of \$50,000 for each violation found to have been committed with the intent to defraud. The lawsuit also asks the court to require Wilson to pay the costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case.

Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Feltman 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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