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August 29, 2018

**MADIGAN SUES OWNER OF PEKIN WELL DRILLING COMPANY**

**Chicago** — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced a lawsuit against the owner of a Pekin drilling company for defrauding homeowners out of thousands of dollars for drinking water wells that were never finished.

Madigan filed the lawsuit in Peoria County Circuit Court against Robert Williams and his company, Sauder Well Drilling LLC (Sauder), a residential well drilling business located at 104 Providence Rd. in Pekin, Ill. Madigan alleged Sauder charged Peoria County residents thousands of dollars for water wells that were never completed.

Madigan's office received complaints from residents who signed contracts and paid deposits for drilling services in addition to well and pump construction. Madigan alleged that beginning at least in February 2017, Sauder collected large deposits from homeowners, ranging from more than \$4,000 to more than \$15,000, but never began drilling. Once Sauder's workers performed initial surveys of residents' properties, Madigan alleged they never returned to begin the work. Sauder eventually stopped responding to customer complaints and failed to provide refunds.

"Sauder Well Drilling received thousands of dollars from families who were relying on its drilling services for access to drinking water," Madigan said. "My lawsuit seeks refunds for Peoria County residents."

Madigan's office previously issued a subpoena to Williams for records and additional information. Williams failed to respond and failed to appear for a subpoena hearing.

Madigan's lawsuit seeks restitution for homeowners and asks the court to void existing contracts and prevent the company from operating in Illinois until they respond to the subpoena. Madigan is also seeking civil penalties.

Assistant Attorneys General Philip Heimlich and Justin Tabatabai are handling the case for Madigan's Consumer Fraud Bureau.

To file a consumer fraud complaint against Sauder Well Drilling, visit [Madigan's website](#) or contact her office's Consumer Fraud Hotline at 1 (800) 243-0618.

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