

District Attorney Marc Bennett
18th Judicial District of Kansas



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For Immediate Release, April 16, 2018

WICHITA, KAN. – Two Wichita contractors have entered consent judgments with the Office of the District Attorney involving allegations of wrongdoing.

The agreement between Vaughn Smith, owner of ABR Mechanical at 5506 N. Seneca, and the District Attorney's Office calls for Mr. Smith to pay \$4,000 in civil penalties and over \$1,000 in restitution for work on an air conditioning unit that was not up to code and failed to provide "any material benefit" to the consumer. After the unit stopped working, the consumer contacted another contractor and purchased a second air conditioner.

The agreement between Chad Smith, his company Austin Construction at 555 Springlake Lane and the DA's Office calls for Smith and Austin Construction to pay \$7,000 in civil penalties and \$3,500 in restitution for work that was not completed. The company was to finish two bedrooms and a bathroom in the basement of a home. After a second installment of \$4,565, the work stopped and the job was left undone.

The consent judgments were signed by Judge Jeffrey Goering. Both cases were investigated by the District Attorney's Investigations Division.

The District Attorney reminds residents that contractors for many residential projects are required to be qualified and licensed, in their own name, by Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department (MABCD). Work may also require permits. Some trades have additional responsibilities, for example, roofers are required to register with the Attorney General's Office.

To contact the Consumer Protection Division of the DA's Office, call 316-660-3653.

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