

District Attorney Marc Bennett
18th Judicial District of Kansas



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For Immediate Release, November 28, 2018

WICHITA, KAN. – An individual acting as a general contractor has entered into a consent judgment with the Office of the District Attorney. Phouthone (Art) Phandara was not licensed and therefore could not pull permits with the Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department (MABCD). Mr. Phandara was hired by a Wichita homeowner to do a remodeling project. After contacting the MABCD for an inspection, the homeowner received a Notice of Violation based on the condition of the work that was done.

The agreement between Mr. Phandara, who operates from his home, and the District Attorney's Office called for him to pay \$10,737.74 in civil penalties, court costs, and fees. In the agreement Phandara also agreed to discontinue trades requiring licensure and permits, unless working under a licensed general contractor or disclosing his limitations to homeowners.

Mr. Phandara admitted the allegations. A separate licensed contractor intervened and brought the project up to code at no additional expense to the consumer.

The District Attorney reminds residents that contractors for many residential projects are required to be qualified and licensed, in their own name, by the Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department (MABCD). Work may also require permits. Anyone engaging in door-to-door sales or offering their services outside of their place of business is required to provide customers specific oral and duplicate written notices that they can cancel their contract within 3 days. The requirements are located in K.S.A. 50-640. Some trades have additional duties, for example, roofers are required to register with the Attorney General's Office.

The consent judgment was approved November 28, 2018, by Judge Jeffrey Goering. The case was investigated by Scott Kelley of the District Attorney's Office.

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