

District Attorney Marc Bennett
18th Judicial District of Kansas



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WICHITA, KAN. – The owner of a Wichita construction and home remodeling business has entered into a consent judgment with the Office of the District Attorney. The District Attorney’s Consumer Protection Division investigated Vonchel Gill after receiving complaints from two separate consumers, including one “protected consumer.”

The District Attorney’s Office alleged Gill violated the Kansas Consumer Protection Act (“KCPA”) by failing to provide the impacted consumers with a material benefit for home remodeling services and falsely represented he was a licensed contractor.

Violations of the KCPA that impact a protected consumer can result in an enhanced civil penalty per violation. K.S.A. 50-677. Protected consumers include the disabled, veterans, members of the military and persons over the age of 60. K.S.A. 50-676.

While the contractor denied intentionally violating the KCPA, he accepted a consent judgment to settle the matter. As part of the agreement, Gill agreed to pay over \$20,000 in restitution to the consumers. The court assessed a \$40,000.00 civil penalty, along with additional investigative expenses, and court costs. As part of the consent judgment, Gill promised to not perform or contract for work he does not have the requisite license or skill to perform as well as to cooperate with the investigation of any future complaints. Future door-to-door sales will include proper notification of the three-day right to cancel. The consent judgment also includes an injunction from engaging in deceptive or unconscionable acts in the future. The contractor will now be on a seventy-two (72) month probationary period with the Consumer Protection Division.

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, including electrical and plumbing, may also require permits. Anyone engaging in door-to-door sales or offering their services outside of their place of business is also required to provide customers a specific notice both orally and in writing that informs the consumer they can cancel the 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 on June 30, 2023, by Judge Jeffrey Goering. The case was investigated by Jimmie Merrick with the Office of the District Attorney.

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CONTACT: DAN DILLON, MEDIA COORDINATOR 316-660-3707
Dan.Dillon@SEDGWICK.GOV