District Attorney Marc Bennett 18th Judicial District of Kansas



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For Immediate Release, March 21, 2023

WICHITA, KAN. – A Wichita construction and home remodeling business and its owner have entered into a consent judgment with the Office of the District Attorney. The District Attorney's Consumer Protection Division investigated Hillson Construction LLC and Spencer Hilley after receiving complaints from three separate consumers.

The District Attorney's Office alleged Hillson and Hilley violated the Kansas Consumer Protection Act ("KCPA") by failing to provide the impacted consumers with a material benefit for home remodeling services.

While the parties denied intentionally violating the KCPA, the business and its owner accepted a consent judgment to settle the matter. As part of the agreement they agreed to pay over \$27,000 in restitution to the consumers. The court assessed a \$30,000.00 civil penalty, along with additional investigative expenses, and court costs. As part of the consent judgment, Hillson and Hilley each promised to not perform or contract for work they do 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 parties will now be on a 12-month probationary period with the Consumer Protection Division.

While Hillson Construction previously entered into a consent judgment with the Consumer Protection Division in 2022, the allegations involved in the present consent judgment predated that prior settlement.

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 three 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 March 21, 2023, by Judge Stephen Ternes. The case was investigated by Andrea Poirier with the Office of the District Attorney.

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