

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

Marguerite Salazar, Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Date: April 14, 2020**

Contact: Bernice Geiger, Public Information Officer
New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department
505.228.8505 | Bernice.Geiger@state.nm.us

"The Mission of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department is to ensure New Mexicans receive quality care and services from qualified professionals".

State warns homeowners to be cautious of unlicensed contractors

SANTA FE – The Construction Industries Division of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department is warning New Mexicans to be cautious about unlicensed contractors and contractors performing unpermitted work.

“It’s spring, and people naturally want to do home repairs while we stay-at-home during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, New Mexicans should take precautions. In addition to practicing social distancing, you must ensure you are working with a licensed contractor,” said Superintendent Marguerite Salazar.

The Construction Industries and Manufactured Housing Division urges consumers to follow these tips when dealing with a contractor:

- Take the necessary precautions when allowing individuals in your home.
- Hire only licensed contractors and ask to see the license.
- Don't rush into decisions, and don't hire the first contractor who comes along.
- Don't pay more than 10 percent down or \$1,000 – whichever is less.
- Don't pay cash, and don't let the payments get ahead of the work.
- Get three bids, check references, and get a written contract.
- To ensure that contractors are properly licensed, check online at www.rld.state.nm.us or by phone at each CID Regional Office:

Santa Fe Office: 1-505-476-4869

Albuquerque Office: 1-505-222-9801

Las Cruces Office: 1-505-524-6320

The New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department regulates more than 425,000 individuals and businesses in 35 industries, professions and trades across the state. Its goal is to assure that New Mexicans receive quality services from qualified individuals and businesses while also ensuring fair and prompt administrative process.