



Choosing a Contractor

How To Avoid Being A Victim of Contractor Fraud

- Hire only Louisiana State Licensed or Registered Contractors
- Commercial projects over \$50,000 require a state license
- Residential new construction of single family homes require a state license
- Home improvement/remodeling over \$7,500 requires a state registration
- Verify a contractors builders license or home improvement registration number at 1-800-256-1392 or www.lslbc.louisiana.gov
- Hazardous materials or mold re-mediation over \$1.00 requires state license
- Get at least 3 local area references and review contractor experience
- Get at least 3 bids on the work to be performed
- Get a written contract and don't sign anything until you understand the terms of your contract clearly
- Pay 10% down, or \$1,000, whichever is less, depending on project size and reasonable starting cost requirements
- Don't let payments get ahead of work completed
- Keep a record of all payments
- Don't make the final payment until you are satisfied with the job
- Never pay cash
- Keep a job file of all papers relating to your construction project

If you are victimized by a contractor you can notify the Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau at 504-392-1652 or 985-564-2525.

I. F. "Jiff" Hingle, Jr.
Sheriff