

Legal Matters: Spring weather is coming. How do I know how protect myself when hiring a Contractor?

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We recommend that when you hire a contractor, you obtain a written estimate on how much it is going to cost and what work is to be done. In accordance with the Consumer Protection Act, the consumer is only required to pay 10 percent more than the estimate.

It is in the best interest of both the consumer and contractor that there is a contract. The contract should clearly state the terms of the business transaction. There should be a completion date or timeline when the work will be complete. There must also be consideration, or a price attached to the work being accomplished. When you have agreed upon these essential elements, then the contract needs to be signed and dated by all parties involved.

Best practices stress that the contract have a refund or cancellation clause. If there are any changes to the contract, make sure that both parties sign and acknowledge the changes. These amendments change the original contract, but by initialing the changes, this binds the consumer and contractor without ambiguity.

In addition, if you are hiring an Electrician or a Roofer, make sure that they show you (and if possible make a copy) of their Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)/Electrical Contractor Registration Agency (ECRA) licence number and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board certification.

Your friends at Shank Law