



The Office of Secretary of State

Karen C. Handel
SECRETARY OF STATE

Randall D. Vaughn
DIRECTOR
PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS

July 14, 2008

Dear Homeowner:

The Georgia Secretary of State's Office is charged with administering the licensure of numerous professions through its Professional Licensing Boards Division. Effective July 1, 2008, most residential and commercial building contractors will be required to be licensed by the Georgia State Licensing Board for Residential and General Contractors.

The licensure requirement was put into place to protect consumers and to establish minimum professional standards for those in the contracting profession. The Residential and General Contractors license tells homeowners that the contractor has met certain industry requirements and standards. While the legislation requires most residential and general contractors to be licensed, some specialty contractors are exempt from this requirement under this law. These include roofers, painters, brick masons and more.

When you need contracting services or the services of any licensed professional, be sure to check the license status before you hire! Just visit the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ga.gov and click on the *Professional Licensure* tab. Here you'll find helpful information on the types of professions that require a state license and licensure status.

On our website, you will also find information regarding the consumer complaint process and disciplinary actions taken against license holders. The complaint process is confidential, and the Board reviews all complaints. Should the Board take disciplinary action against a licensee, it may issue an order against the licensee or even suspend or revoke his or her license. All public board orders against licensees can be found on the website.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Georgia Secretary of State's Professional Licensing Board Division at (478) 207-2440.

Hiring a contractor is an important decision for any homeowner. I encourage you to do your homework before making any hiring decision, and it is my pleasure to help you in that process.

Sincerely,

Karen C. Handel