



**Oregon Construction Contractors Board**

700 Summer St. NE, Suite 300

PO Box 14140

Salem, Oregon 97309

(503) 373-2007 FAX

[www.oregon.gov/ccb](http://www.oregon.gov/ccb)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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CONTACT: Gina Fox (503-378-4621 Ext. 4016)

**CCB Investigation Leads to Jail Time— Again**

John Richard Kowalski, age 63, received 180 days in jail for violating the terms of his parole.

Kowalski violated Oregon law by working without an Oregon Construction Contractors Board (CCB) license and illegally contracting with elderly victims.

In July 2005, the CCB opened an investigation as the result of a complaint from Multnomah County's Aging and Disability Services. The agency was concerned that an elderly woman had been the victim of construction fraud.

A CCB investigator found that Kowalski had been convicted in 1992 on one count of Racketeering and 28 counts of Theft I for his involvement in a home repair scheme in which he defrauded elderly Oregon homeowners. He served nearly 10 years in prison. The investigation was assigned to the CCB Special Investigative Unit (SIU) which targets construction theft and fraud.

The CCB investigation revealed that Kowalski was illegally contracting with elderly females. The CCB referred the case to the Portland Police Bureau and Multnomah County Adult Corrections for unlicensed construction contracting and theft.

The judge ordered Kowalski to serve a greater than normal jail sentence based upon the CCB report that showed Kowalski acted in great disregard of his parole agreement to not engage in home repair services or to engage in any employment that involves elderly people.

The CCB is a state agency licensing more than 43,000 contractors. Anyone who is paid to repair, improve or build a home must be licensed by the CCB. The CCB SIU works to identify and deter construction fraud. Consumers can verify a contractor's license at [www.oregon.gov/ccb](http://www.oregon.gov/ccb) or by calling 503-378-4621.

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