



SENIOR BULLETIN

January 2012

Greetings!

Happy New Year! Most of us want to start the New Year off right; however, when it comes to construction contracts, some seniors feel overwhelmed and intimidated. As a senior citizen and homeowner, you don't have to be placed in that predicament.

You should always remind yourself that you are in control of all projects performed on your property. The same goes for construction contracts. You have the right to make decisions about what's included in your contract. If you have standards of what should be in the contract, contractors should work with you to make sure your standards will be met.

What should you look for in construction contracts? Well, for starters, you want to ensure the contract is as detailed as possible. No small detail should be overlooked. Everything should be included in the contract. Don't settle for verbal agreements, as they are not binding. Make certain you understand the contract. If you don't understand it, get clarification and ask questions. When you hire a contractor, it is his or her responsibility to help you navigate through the contract, so don't feel frightened or ashamed to ask questions.

All contracts should be legible, clear and concise. If you can't read the contract because the font type is too small, ask the contractor if he or she can put together another contract with a larger font type. Also, if you feel the contract is misleading or confusing, obtain further explanation from the contractor, so you and the contractor are on the same page. Ensure the contractor has given you ample time to review the contract yourself or with an attorney before signing it.

Finally, make certain a payment schedule is included in the contract. A payment schedule should outline when payments are due provided the project phases agreed upon are completed. Also, have the contractor stipulate that change orders will be made in writing.

Below is a construction contract checklist to help you recognize things to look for in contracts. As always, if you have any suggestions, comments or concerns regarding these Senior Bulletins, please contact the **Public Information Office at: (702) 486-1165, or e-mail: rbotros@nscb.state.nv.us**.

Construction Contract Checklist

- Contract is thorough or detailed**
- Terms within contract are easy to comprehend**
- Contract is legible**
- Information is clear and concise**
- Payment Schedule for each phase is outlined**
- Contractor has given me ample time to review the contract myself or with an attorney**
- Contractor stipulated that change orders will be made in writing**
- All of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction by the contractor**
- My standards of what should be in the contract have been met by the contractor**
- Contract is ready to be signed**