

About Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA)

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) provides free legal assistance to eligible low-income persons in civil matters (we do not provide legal assistance in criminal or traffic matters).

JALA offers free educational seminars and informational brochures regarding the areas of law we practice. Call your local office (listed on the back of this brochure) for further information.

This brochure is for general education only. It is not intended to be used to solve *individual problems*. If you have specific questions, see an attorney. JALA offices are listed on the back of this brochure.

This brochure was developed by:



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Jacksonville Area Legal Aid Offices

Downtown Jacksonville Office
126 W. Adams St.
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 356-8371
Toll-Free: (866) 356-8371
Fax: (904) 356-8285

St. Johns County Legal Aid
222 San Marco Avenue
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Phone: (904) 827-9921
Toll Free: (877) 827-9921
Fax: (904) 827-9978

Clay County Legal Aid
Located inside the Clay County Courthouse
825 N. Orange Avenue, Rm 308
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
Phone: (904) 284-8410
Toll Free: (866) 284-8410

Online at
www.JaxLegalAid.org



HOME REPAIR DO'S & DON'TS

AFTER THE STORM

SOME CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING DO'S AND DON'TS

DO ask to see the contractor's license and make sure it matches the person showing it;

DO determine how long the contractor has been in business;

DO contact the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (1-850-487-1395) or www.myfloridalicense.com to verify the current status of the license;

DO ask for references and check them out;

DO choose several contractors and get estimates from each; and

DO get the agreement in writing – read the contract, fill in all the blank spaces, make sure it contains the contractor's name, address, telephone number, license number, description of the work, completion date, and any warranty agreements.

DON'T hire a contractor who requires advance payment – arrange to pay upon completion or in installments;

DON'T sign the work completion certificate until all the work is satisfactorily completed;

DON'T pay cash; and

DON'T pull the construction permits.



WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS!

Victims of Natural Disasters should take care not to be victimized a second time—by unscrupulous adjusters, contractors or retailers.

Verify that an adjuster is licensed by calling **1-800-227-8676**.

Consumers should check that a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) or SBA (Small Business Administration) representative has a laminated photo ID card. A FEMA or SBA jacket or shirt is not proof of an affiliation.

“The price-gouging statute does not forbid making a profit but it does forbid profiteering.”

Consumers can check if a contractor is licensed at www.myfloridalicense.com.

Any suspected fraud or price gouging can be reported to the State Attorney General's office at **1-866-966-7226**, or at myfloridalegal.com

DBPR provides a toll-free number for unlicensed activity complaints at **1-866-532-1440**.