

Unlicensed Activity Hurts Your Business

The California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) works to ensure that individuals who are supposed to be licensed – whether as a contractor, or a dentist, or an accountant – are, in fact licensed.

DCA licenses more than 250 professions in over 40 different industries. Licensing establishes minimum education, competency, and ethics standards for California professionals.

While some may see these requirements as unnecessary and burdensome, they are overlooking the value. A California license identifies each licensee as an industry professional, establishes uniform industry standards which create a “level playing field” for all licensees, and promotes fair competition in the marketplace.

Those who practice without a California license do so for a variety of reasons. Some practitioners are unfamiliar with licensing requirements. Others have language issues that make the licensing process difficult to understand. Still others lack the education needed to pass the licensing exam or cannot afford the licensing fees. The goal of DCA's Unlicensed Activity Unit is to bring these individuals into voluntary compliance by helping them address whatever barriers prevent them from obtaining a California license.

Other individuals practice without a license because they lack the required skills, cannot pass a background check, or have lost their license for engaging in deceptive or fraudulent business practices. These individuals have no intention of becoming licensed. Avoiding licensing requirements allows them to underbid industry professionals, evade taxes, and avoid detection. These are the individuals who are more likely to cheat and physically harm consumers and who cost licensed professionals money and reputation. DCA's Unlicensed Activity Unit works to find these unlicensed individuals and initiate enforcement action against them.

If you are an unlicensed practitioner who wants to become a California licensed professional, contact DCA. We want to help you become licensed.

If you are a licensed professional who wants to protect your business and your good name from unskilled and dishonest business people:

- Help clients understand that hiring a licensed professional protects them;
- Encourage prospective clients to verify you are licensed in good standing; and
- If your employees or subcontractors need to be licensed, ensure that they are.

If you want to check the status of a California license or report known or suspected unlicensed activity, contact DCA.

1-800-STOP-ULA (1-877-786-7852)
www.InquireBeforeYouHire.ca.gov