

WARNING TO OWNER

Florida's Construction Lien Law (Chapter 713, Part One, Florida Statutes) requires the recording with the Clerk of the Courts a Notice of Commencement for real property improvements greater than \$2,500.00. However, it does not apply to the repair or replacement of an existing heating or air conditioning system less than \$5,000.00 in value. This Notice must be signed by you, the property owner. Under Florida law, those who work on your property or provide materials and are not paid, have a right to enforce their claim for payment against your property. This claim is known as a construction lien.

YOU MUST FILE A NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT

For your protection under the Construction Lien Law and to avoid the possibility of paying twice for improvements to real property, you must record a Notice of Commencement in the Clerk of the Court's Office. You also must provide a certified copy of the recorded document at the construction site. The Notice of Commencement must be signed by you, the owner contracting the improvements, and not your agent. The Notice of Commencement form, can be obtained at the front counter of the Building Dept., said form must be completed and recorded within 90 days before starting the work.

A copy of the payment bond, if any is required by you and purchased by the contractor, must be attached as part of the Notice of Commencement when recorded.

If improvements described in the Notice of Commencement are not actually started within 90 days after the recording of the Notice, a new Notice of Commencement must be recorded.

You lose your protection under the Construction Lien Law if payments are made to the contractor after the expiration of the Notice of Commencement. The Notice is good for one year after the recording date or up to the date specified under item nine of the form.

Florida law requires the Building Department to be a second source of information concerning the improvements made on real property.

YOU MUST POST THE NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT AT THE JOB SITE.

By law, the Building Department is required to verify at the first inspection, after the building permit is issued, that a certified copy of the recorded Notice of Commencement, with attached bonds if any, is posted at the construction site. Failure to show the inspector a certified copy of the recorded Notice will result in a disapproved inspection. {Florida Statute 713.135 (1) (d)}.

NOTICE TO OWNER FROM SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

You may receive a Notice to Owner from subcontractors and material suppliers. This Notice advises you that the sender is providing services or materials. Subcontractor and suppliers must serve a Notice to Owner within 45 days of commencing work to preserve their ability to lien your property.

If your address changes from that given in the Notice of Commencement, you should record a corrected Notice reflecting your current address. This is done to help ensure you will receive all notices.

RELEASE OF LIEN FROM CONTRACTOR

Prior to paying the contractor, you need to receive a Release of Lien and Affidavit to the extent of payment from the general contractor.

The Release of Lien and Affidavit shall state either that all the subcontractors and suppliers have been paid or list those unpaid and the amount owed. The contractor is required to list on the Release of Lien and Affidavit any subcontractor or supplier that has not been paid. That amount may be withheld from the contractor's pay and paid directly to the subcontractors or suppliers after 10 days written notice to the contractor. If the balance due to the contractor is not sufficient to pay in full all subcontractors and suppliers listed on the contractor's affidavit, you may wish to consult an attorney. The General contractor shall furnish a final Release of Lien and Affidavit to the owner indicating all subcontractors and suppliers have been paid at the time he requests final payment. You can rely on the affidavit in making final payment to the general contractor.

If you make final payment to the general contractor without obtaining the affidavit, your property can be liened for nonpayment if the general contractor fails to pay the subcontractors or suppliers. You should always obtain a Release of Lien and Affidavit from the contractor to the extent of any payments being made.

RELY ON YOUR LENDER FOR COMPLIANCE WITH CONSTRUCTION LIEN LAW

If you have a lender, you may rely on the lender to handle the recording of the Notice of Commencement. Learn more about the Construction Lien Law by contacting an attorney, your lender, or the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, Division of Consumer Services

Documents are recorded at the Clerk of the Courts, 500 Avenue J ;P.O. Box10; Moore Haven, FL 33471