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Construction Labor

REPORT

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State News

Florida

State Arrests Company Owner for Failing To Provide Workers' Compensation Coverage


TAMPA, Fla.--The employer of two workers killed in a July construction accident has been arrested on a workers' compensation fraud charge for allegedly failing to provide coverage to his employees, Florida regulators said Nov. 23 (*Florida v. Meccariello*, Fla.Cir.Ct., No. 04-1647-CFMA, 11/19/04).

Richard Meccariello Jr. was charged in Florida Circuit Court, 19th Judicial Circuit, Martin County, with one count of failure to secure workers' compensation insurance coverage, the office of Florida Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher said in a written statement.

In August, the Department of Financial Services' Division of Workers' Compensation levied a \$2.4 million fine against two companies owned by Meccariello, Mac's Construction and Concrete Inc., and Mac's Custom Construction, Inc. following the deaths of two workers and the injury of at least three others at a job site in Hobe Sound (50 CLR 862, 9/8/04).

Under Florida law, construction industry employers with one or more employees must provide workers' compensation coverage for their employees. At the time of the July accident, Meccariello employed at least seven workers without coverage, according to the statement.

"When workers show up to perform a job, they deserve to be protected in case they get injured. This terrible accident is a perfect example of why workers' compensation is so important," Gallagher said in a written statement. "Employers who don't protect their workers will be held accountable."

Court clerks said records did not list an attorney for Meccariello. 

By Drew Douglas

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