

# Navigating the Construction Process

Construction can be an overwhelming process, especially under challenging circumstances. At HPP CARES, our staff has over 15 years of experience in the construction industry. We have successfully advocated for many families who have fallen victim to unscrupulous contractors.

We urge you to take your time throughout this process and develop a clear plan before reaching out to any contractors. Use this guide as a starting point to prepare yourself for the rebuild process.

## Key Takeaways:

- 01** Keep Your Budget Private: Do not share your budget with contractors or adjusters.
- 02** Be Wary of Adjusters: Watch out for adjusters who push you to use their preferred contractors.
- 03** Vet Contractors Carefully:
  - Verify their license directly with the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) by calling.
  - Confirm they have active insurance and a valid bond.

Contractor Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor License Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you find the process overwhelming, our HPP CARES counselors are here to assist you with every step outlined above – completely free of charge.**

**Contact us at 562-281-8861 for guidance and support. Let us help you rebuild with confidence.**



HPP Cares is a HUD-approved Housing Counselling Agency – HUD 84916 # 501 c 3 non-profit.

*Our services are completely free of charge*

# Navigating the Construction Process (continued)

## WATCH OUT FOR:

Important Tips for Working with Adjusters and Contractors:

- 01 Adjusters Recommending Contractors: Be cautious if an adjuster tries to entice you to work with their recommended contractor.
- 02 Contractors Soliciting Your Business:
  - Ensure the contractor can provide their valid license card.
  - Verify their license status by calling the Contractors State License Board (CSLB).
  - Check all their bonds and insurance to confirm coverage is active and adequate.
- 03 Contract Requirements:
  - Make sure you have a written contract that outlines all phases of the work to be done.
  - Contact HPP CARES at 562-281-8861 to review the contract before signing.
- 04 Payment Rules:
  - Do not pay more than \$1,000 or 10% of the contract amount (whichever is less) at the time of signing.
- 05 Protect Your Construction Budget:
  - If you are concerned about managing your construction budget, consider using a Managed Escrow and Inspection Service. This ensures that the contractor completes each phase of the project before funds are released to them.

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