



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services  
8181 Independence Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

[www.lasfm.org](http://www.lasfm.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Ashley Rodrigue  
Public Affairs Director

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**PHONE:** 225-620-5115  
[ashley.rodrigue@la.gov](mailto:ashley.rodrigue@la.gov)

### UNLICENSED LOCKSMITH COMPANY ORDERED TO STOP OPERATING

**JEFFERSON PARISH-** The State Fire Marshal's Office has obtained a permanent injunction against a Gretna-based locksmith company that has continuously engaged in unlicensed practices for almost a decade.

A judge in the 24<sup>th</sup> JDC issued the injunction against David Dowell Jr. and his company, The Lock Clinic, which has been operating illegally since 2010.

The SFM first issued a cease and desist to the business in May of 2010 after its required life safety and property protection contracting license expired. Life safety and property protection contracting includes mechanical or electronic locks, special locking systems and equipment, security systems and equipment, fire sprinkler systems and equipment, fire detection and alarm systems and equipment, fire suppression systems and equipment, portable fire extinguishers, fire hoses, and conveyance devices.

After learning the business was still in operation without a license in 2016, deputies began an investigation into The Lock Clinic and sought legal action, which is still pending. Then last summer, it was learned the business was still operating in violation of the Fire Marshal's order and new legal action was taken, resulting in the recently granted injunction.

"Our state's life safety and property protection licensing laws are in place for a reason—to ensure businesses and their employees are qualified and trustworthy to do work for the citizens of this state," said State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning, "When a business knowingly and repeatedly violates that requirement, not only is their action endangering the public, but it's also an insult to the thousands of other businesses following the rules. We hope taking this extreme measure sends a message that unlicensed operations will not be tolerated by this agency."

The SFM is currently investigating complaints on two other unlicensed locksmith businesses operating in the New Orleans area. To avoid falling victim to unlicensed life safety and property protection businesses, check the name on the State Fire Marshal's website, [lasfm.org](http://lasfm.org), before calling the company. If you feel you've fallen victim to an unlicensed life safety and property protection business, you can file an official complaint also on the SFM's website.