TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING & REGULATION

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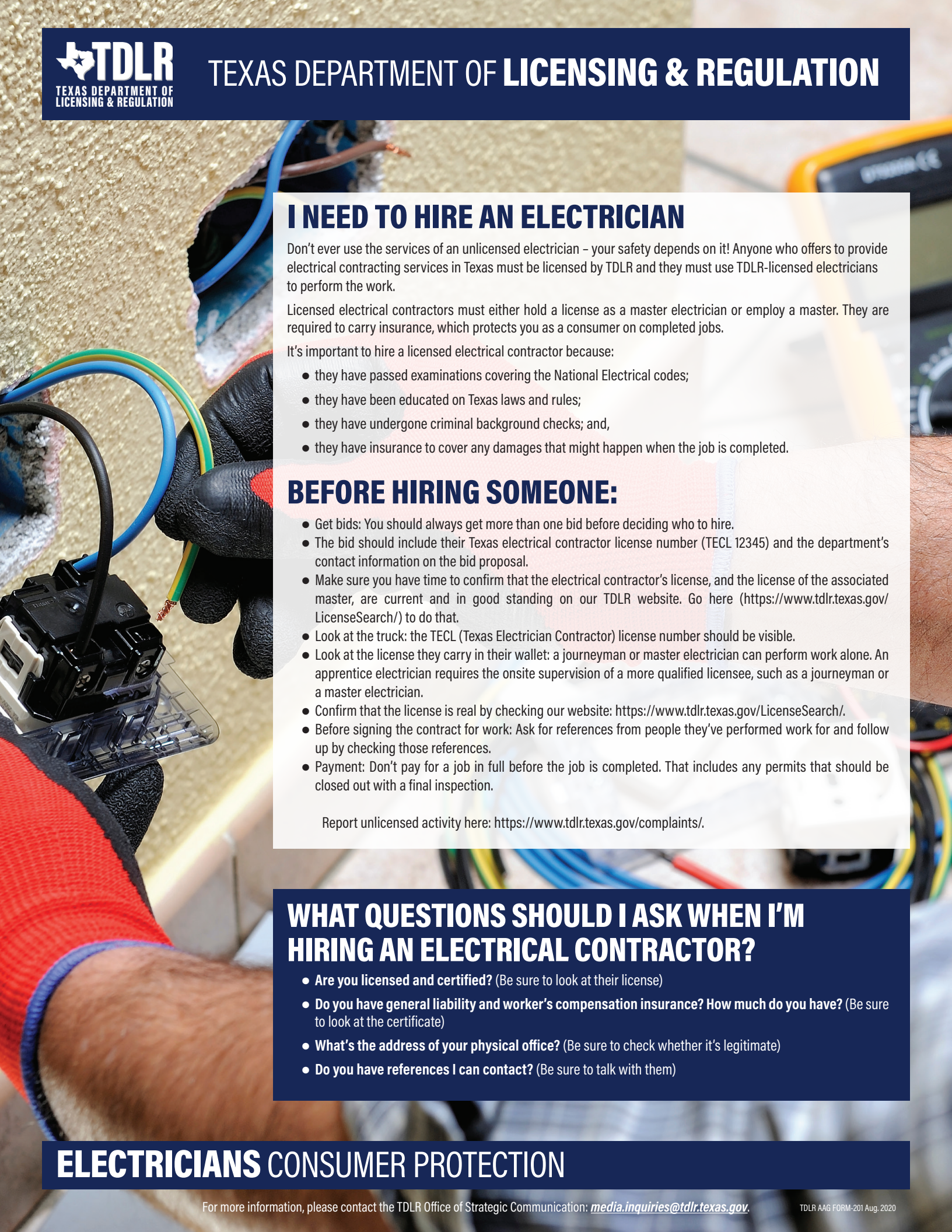

I NEED TO HIRE AN ELECTRICIAN

Don't ever use the services of an unlicensed electrician – your safety depends on it! Anyone who offers to provide electrical contracting services in Texas must be licensed by TDLR and they must use TDLR-licensed electricians to perform the work.

Licensed electrical contractors must either hold a license as a master electrician or employ a master. They are required to carry insurance, which protects you as a consumer on completed jobs.

It's important to hire a licensed electrical contractor because:

- they have passed examinations covering the National Electrical codes;
- they have been educated on Texas laws and rules;
- they have undergone criminal background checks; and,
- they have insurance to cover any damages that might happen when the job is completed.

BEFORE HIRING SOMEONE:

- Get bids: You should always get more than one bid before deciding who to hire.
- The bid should include their Texas electrical contractor license number (TECL 12345) and the department's contact information on the bid proposal.
- Make sure you have time to confirm that the electrical contractor's license, and the license of the associated master, are current and in good standing on our TDLR website. Go here (https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/LicenseSearch/) to do that.
- Look at the truck: the TECL (Texas Electrician Contractor) license number should be visible.
- Look at the license they carry in their wallet: a journeyman or master electrician can perform work alone. An apprentice electrician requires the onsite supervision of a more qualified licensee, such as a journeyman or a master electrician.
- Confirm that the license is real by checking our website: https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/LicenseSearch/.
- Before signing the contract for work: Ask for references from people they've performed work for and follow up by checking those references.
- Payment: Don't pay for a job in full before the job is completed. That includes any permits that should be closed out with a final inspection.

Report unlicensed activity here: https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/complaints/.

WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK WHEN I'M HIRING AN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR?

- **Are you licensed and certified?** (Be sure to look at their license)
- **Do you have general liability and worker's compensation insurance? How much do you have?** (Be sure to look at the certificate)
- **What's the address of your physical office?** (Be sure to check whether it's legitimate)
- **Do you have references I can contact?** (Be sure to talk with them)

ELECTRICIANS CONSUMER PROTECTION

For more information, please contact the TDLR Office of Strategic Communication: ***media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov***.

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