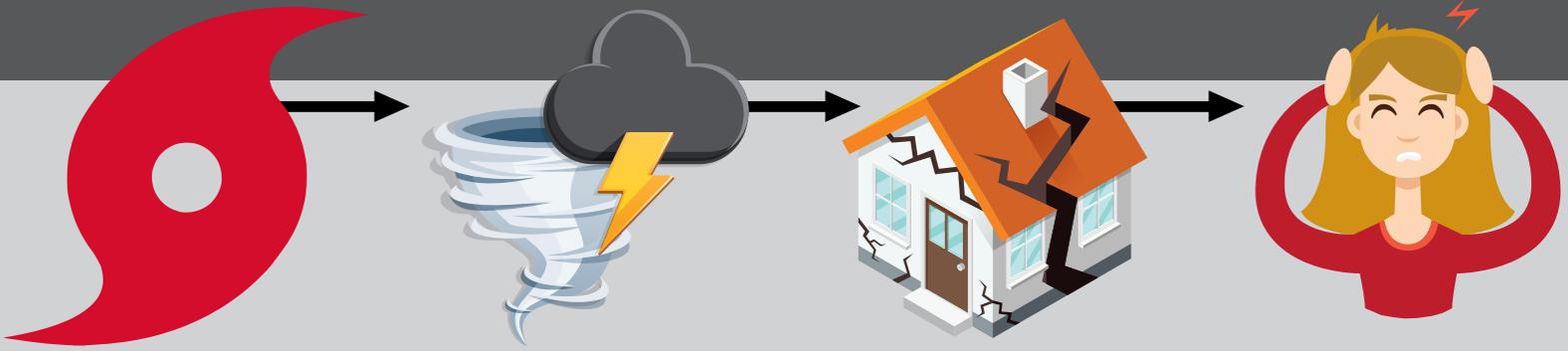


AOB: THE STORM AFTER THE STORM

Life back to normal. We know that's all you want after you've experienced loss or damage to your home. Contractors know that, too - and some will take advantage of this difficult time for you by inflating your repair costs and having you sign a contract that includes an assignment of benefits (AOB) clause. Even if you inadvertently sign this paperwork, you've just assigned control of your claim to your contractor. At this point, we may no longer be able to provide you with a claim check - EVERYTHING would go through the contractor. Losing control of your claim could result in more than a headache for you - it could ultimately cause you to lose the very home you simply want to get back to normal.



ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS (AOB) CONTRACT

What does it mean?

Unscrupulous contractors pressure unsuspecting homeowners into signing contracts that include Assignment of Benefits (AOB) clauses - words to the effect of, "I transfer and assign any and all insurance rights, benefits and causes of action under my property insurance policy to the contractor."

→ WHAT DO YOU STAND TO LOSE? ←

Now that your contractor is in control, he can bill your insurance company for work he hasn't done, overcharge your insurer, or simply take your proceeds and never even begin working on your home. **The contractor could take the money and run, leaving your home unrepaired or partially repaired.**

Either way, you may be on the hook to pay for your contractor's scams.

If an inflated bill from your contractor exceeds what is covered by your homeowners insurance policy, you may have to pay the difference. The contractor could place a lien your home, and contractor liens in Florida can be enforced by foreclosure. This type of fraud, while extremely costly to individual homeowners who've fallen victim to the scam, affects all Florida homeowners. Fraud is currently one of the primary drivers in home insurance premium costs.

AOB fraud is far from a victimless crime!

HOW TO PREVENT FROM BECOMING A VICTIM

- Following a loss, the first call should be to your homeowners insurance company. They can refer a licensed, experienced and reputable contractor. This will also help expedite your claims process.
- Never partner with a contractor who requires you to sign an assignment of benefits document.
- Ask the contractor for proof of liability insurance.
- Never sign a document you don't fully understand. When in doubt, call your homeowners insurance company for help.
- In the event of a family member's home emergency, make sure to tell them not to sign anything that requires them to assign their benefits to a contractor.



Be sure to call in your claim to your insurance company right away to help avoid scams like this.

We are here for you after a loss.

If you have tropical storm or hurricane-related damage, please call [1-844-MY-AIIC-1](tel:1-844-MY-AIIC-1) so we can quickly help you begin the recovery process.