

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
LOCKSMITH LICENSING BOARD
CASE NO. EC-25-257

In the matter of:)
)
BASIL ABDULLAH, Licensee)
(L. 2848))
)
Respondent.)

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND FINAL AGENCY DECISION

In accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-40(d), the North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board (the “Board”) issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Final Agency Decision in this matter.

The record reflects that a quorum of the Board was present at the hearing held on March 4, 2026, and at the time the Board made this decision on March 4, 2026. At the hearing, Ryan C. Mitiguy and A. Grant Simpkins, General Counsel, appeared for Board staff. Respondent Licensee appeared on his own behalf.

Before the hearing, the following inquiry was read aloud in accordance with state ethics laws: “I now ask if there are any members of the Board who wish to disqualify themselves from participation in the hearing and consideration of this matter because of a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest, which would render them unable to perform their duties in an impartial manner?” No Board members stated that they had a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest.

PETITIONER’S LIST OF EXHIBITS

1. 12/30/2025 Notice of Hearing and Affidavit of Service
2. 12/29/2025 License Credential
3. 04/21/2025 Articles of Incorporation for Auto City Locksmith LLC
4. December 2025 Basil Abdullah Google Review of Mr. Gnome Locksmith, LLC
5. December 2025 – January 2026 Google Reviews of Auto City Locksmith LLC
6. 01/26/2026 Auto City Locksmith LLC Website

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On January 23, 2025, Basil Abdullah (“Respondent Licensee”) was issued a locksmith license, license no. 2848, which is currently valid.
2. Auto City Locksmith LLC (“Auto City”) is a limited liability company (SOSID 2981133) organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina, having its registered

office located at 5 Saint Croix Place, Apt. L, Greensboro, North Carolina 27410. Respondent Licensee is the Manager and Registered Agent of Speedy Locksmith.

3. At hearing, Barden Culbreth (“Culbreth”), Executive Director of the Board, testified credibly in reference to Board records, locksmith regulations, the responsibilities of licensees, and the Board’s investigation into Respondent Licensee.
4. Culbreth testified credibly that Respondent Licensee did not register Auto City with the Board.
5. Culbreth testified credibly that the Board received a complaint from Mr. Richard Yarbrough (“Yarbrough”) alleging Respondent Licensee posted a false consumer review on Google regarding Mr. Yarbrough’s business, Mr. Gnome Locksmith, LLC.
6. Culbreth testified credibly that Yarbrough’s complaint stated that Yarbrough never completed services for the Respondent Licensee.
7. Culbreth testified credibly that Board staff investigated the complaint, recent consumer reviews posted on Google by Respondent Licensee, and consumer reviews posted on Google regarding Auto City.
8. Culbreth testified credibly that Google reviews for Auto City describe and depict unlicensed individuals performing locksmith services as employees of and on behalf of Auto City and Auto City acknowledging the performance of the employee’s locksmith services.
9. Culbreth testified credibly that Auto City’s website includes names and images of individuals described as employed as locksmiths by Auto City but that the Board does not have record of locksmith licenses issued by the Board for the depicted individuals or record of the employees as registered with the Board by Respondent Licensee.
10. At hearing, Richard Yarbrough (“Yarbrough”), testified credibly in reference to the complaint he filed with the Board, and his prior interactions with the Respondent Licensee and Auto City.
11. Yarbrough testified credibly regarding the costs of his locksmith services.
12. Yarbrough testified credibly that he did not provide locksmith services to or charge a fee to Respondent Licensee.
13. Respondent Licensee testified that his locksmith license number is not listed on Auto City’s website.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW


1. Respondent Licensee is subject to Chapter 74F of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 29 of the North Carolina Administrative Code.
2. Respondent Licensee is subject to jurisdiction before the Board.
3. The Board is authorized under Article 3A, Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes to hear this matter.
4. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 74F-3 provides that a licensee shall not dispatch or assist individuals to hold themselves out to be licensed locksmiths, by offering to perform locksmith services and perform locksmith services without being licensed by the Board.
5. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 74F-13 provides that a licensee shall provide the Board with the names of each person employed by licensee who either performs locksmith services or has access to locksmith tools.
6. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 74F-15(3) provides that a licensee shall not demonstrate gross negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in performing locksmith services.
7. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 74F-15(4) provides that a licensee shall not willfully violate any provision of the Locksmith Licensing Act, Chapter 74F of the North Carolina General Statutes.
8. 21 NCAC 29 .0502(c) provides that a licensee shall not associate with or allow the use of a locksmith's name (personal or professional) by any enterprise that in any way supports fraud or misrepresentation.
9. 21 NCAC 29 .0502(e) provides that a licensee shall not utilize improper means of soliciting business.
10. 21 NCAC 29 .0502(f) provides that a licensee shall register with the Board the business names that a locksmith utilizes to engage in locksmith services and all advertising for locksmith services shall be in the registered names of the licensed locksmith.
11. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 74F-15(b) provides that the Board may assess the costs of the disciplinary action, including attorneys' fees, against Respondent Licensee if found to be in violation of Chapter 74F or rules adopted by the Board.
12. Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, Respondent Licensee committed one or more of the violations described above.

FINAL AGENCY DECISION

The North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board hereby issues the following decision:

1. Respondent Licensee's locksmith license, license no. 2848, is hereby suspended for a period of twenty-four (24) months upon the following terms and conditions:
 - a. The suspension of Respondent Licensee's locksmith license shall be stayed and the license shall be conditionally restored upon a sixty (60) day period of active suspension.
 - b. Within sixty (60) days of the Effective Date of this order, Respondent Licensee shall attend a business ethics course for a period of at least four (4) hours. If Respondent Licensee is unable to complete a business ethics course within sixty (60) days, Respondent Licensee may request an extension of time from the Board's Ethics Committee. The Board's Ethics Committee has the authority to extend the deadline for the Respondent Licensee to attend a business ethics course in its sole discretion.
 - c. Within sixty (60) days of the Effective Date of this order, Respondent Licensee shall comply with all statutes and rules of the Board involving advertising locksmith services, including correcting any false information and displaying Respondent Licensee's license number on all advertising, including but not limited to, business websites.
 - d. Within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date of this order, Respondent Licensee shall remit to the Board \$5,000.00 cost recovery for this disciplinary action, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 74F-15(b).
 - e. Respondent Licensee shall comply with Chapter 74F of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Board's rules and regulations.
2. This Final Agency Decision shall take effect upon service of Respondent Licensee in a manner consistent with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-42(a).
3. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-45(a)(2), Respondent has thirty (30) days from the date that he receives this Final Agency Decision to file a Petition for Judicial Review. The Petition for Judicial Review must be filed in the Superior Court of the county where the person aggrieved by the administrative decision resides, or in the case of a person residing outside the State, in the county where the contested case which resulted in the final decision was filed. Since this is an administrative appeal, no additional evidence will be taken. If a Petition is filed, a Superior Court Judge will review the Final Agency Decision to determine whether there were any legal errors in the Final Agency Decision.

By order of the North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board, this, the 10th day of
MARCH, 2026.

By: 
Chair Presiding
N.C. Locksmith Licensing Board

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Final Agency Decision was served upon the Respondent Licensee by email and US Mail, postage prepaid, First Class, and addressed as follows:

Basil Abdullah
614 Friendway Road,
Greensboro, NC 27410

This, the ____ day of _____, 2026.

Ryan C. Mitiguy

