

## Have a complaint?

The MD Forest Service is responsible for investigating complaints against individuals or entities that provide tree care services. Penalties against MD Licensed Tree Experts for not complying with Tree Expert Law and ANSI Standards include license suspension or revocation. Unlicensed tree care service providers are subject to criminal prosecution for operating without a tree expert license and advertising without a license. The MD Forest Service enforcement authority does not include requiring money refunds. You will need to file civil action in your county court.

If you wish to file a complaint against either a MD Licensed Tree Expert or an unlicensed person, you must complete the complaint form found on our website listed below. Download the tree/tree company complaint form and fill in the form as completely as possible. Then mail, along, with any evidence such as cancelled checks, contracts, photos, or advertisements, to your closest Forest Service address listed on the form. Anonymous complaints cannot be investigated.

To obtain a complaint form, please visit our website at:

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/forests/>

Click on Licensed Tree Expert under our online services menu.



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Mark Belton, Secretary

Maryland  
Department of Natural Resources  
Forest Service  
Urban & Community  
Forestry Program

Tawes State Office Building E-1  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Donald VanHassent, Acting State Forester  
Marian Honecny, Supervisor Urban &  
Community Forestry Program  
E-mail: [marian.honecny@maryland.gov](mailto:marian.honecny@maryland.gov)

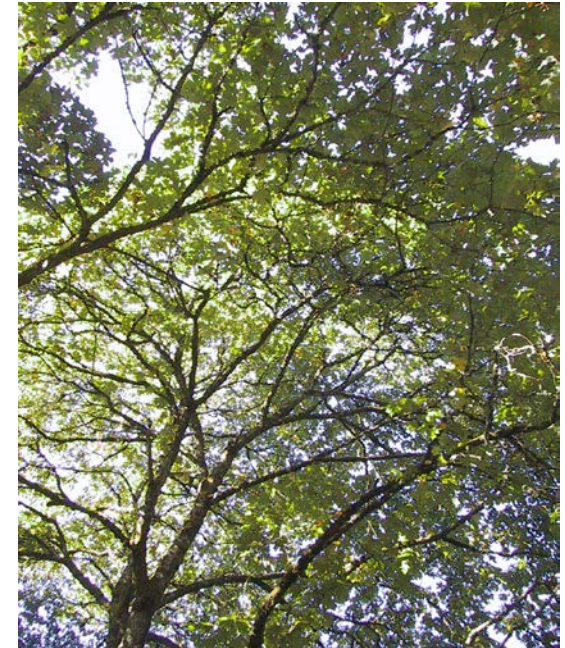
Phone: 410-260-8531  
877-620-8DNR Ext 8531  
TTY via Maryland Relay 711 (within MD)  
800-735-2258 (Out of State)

The facilities of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, physical or mental disability.

This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual.



## Licensed Tree Expert Program



### MARYLAND FOREST SERVICE



The Forest Service restores, manages, and protects Maryland's trees, forests, and forested ecosystems to sustain our natural resources and connect people to the land.



Maryland's Licensed Tree Expert Law  
1945

Authority: Natural Resources Article  
§§5-415 to 5-423, Annotated Code of

## **Definition**

A tree expert is a person skilled in the science of tree care that engages in the business or work of the treatment, care, or removal of trees for compensation by making diagnoses, prescribing and supervising, treatments or trimming, pruning, cable and removes trees.

The Maryland Tree Expert Licensing Law requires that anyone (an individual or business) who advertises or represents him or herself as an arborist, tree specialist, tree surgeon, tree expert, or similar title, and charges a fee for that service, must be licensed. This includes someone who simply cuts down and removes trees.

## **When is a license not required?**

A tree expert license is not required to:

- Treat, care for or removes a tree less than 20 feet tall.
- Conduct commercial logging or timber harvest operations.
- Install underground facilities or associated site construction.

## **How to become a Licensed Tree**

### **Expert:**

In order to become a Maryland Licensed Tree Expert (MD LTE), the tree care worker needs to meet certain qualifications in order to take the exam.

### **Qualifications:**

- ✿ Must be 18 years old AND
- ✿ Must have two years of college education in a forestry related field and one year work experience under a MD LTE,
- ✿ OR must have three years of work experience under a MD LTE.

If it has been determined that your application meets the above listed qualifications, then you can take the licensing exam offered by the MD Forest Service.

After passing the exam, the company's certificate of insurance for tree care work must be provided prior to receiving your license.

### **Keep these tips in mind...**

1. When selecting a company make sure to ask for his or her MD LTE number. The MD LTE number can be verified at:  
[http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/tree\\_expert\\_search.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/tree_expert_search.asp)
2. Ask for a copy of their certificate of insurance.
3. Ask questions. Ask them to explain how they are going to do the job. Ask for references and then check them out.
4. Find out if the tree service advocates tree

topping, a harmful practice. If they do, avoid hiring the company.

5. Obtain more than one estimate for the proposed work.
6. Obtain a written work contract that states the work to be performed and the cost.
7. Never pay the full amount before all work is completed as per the contract.
8. Be sure to include in the written contract "clean up (removing brush and/or the stump) after job completion".
9. MD LTE are required to place their LTE number on their trucks, proposals, contracts, and in their advertisements.
10. MD LTE must comply with the professional standards and ethics according to Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR 08.07.07).
11. MD LTE must conduct tree care according to ANSI (the American National Standards).

To find more information about MD Licensed Tree Experts or to locate one that works in your county, please visit our website at:

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/forests>

Click on Licensed Tree Expert under our online services menu.