

CHAPTER 5

REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

Authority

N.J.S.A. 45:15-6, 45:15-10.4, 45:15-16.49, 45:15-17(t), and 45:15-17.4; and P.L. 2009, c. 238.

Source and Effective Date

R.2009 d.287, effective August 27, 2009.
See: 41 N.J.R. 1381(a), 41 N.J.R. 3440(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1b, Chapter 5, Real Estate Commission, expires on August 27, 2016. See: 43 N.J.R. 1203(a).

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 5, Real Estate Commission, was filed and became effective prior to September 1, 1969. Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 5 expired on August 2, 1983.

Chapter 5, Real Estate Commission, was adopted as new rules by R.1983 d.471, effective November 7, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 1343(a), 15 N.J.R. 1865(c).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 5, Real Estate Commission, was readopted as R.1988 d.555, effective October 28, 1988. See: 20 N.J.R. 2184(a), 20 N.J.R. 3019(a).

Subchapter 2, Organizational Rules, was adopted as R.1989 d.258, effective April 19, 1989. See: 21 N.J.R. 1364(a).

Subchapter 3, Petitions for Rulemaking, Subchapter 4, Proceedings before the Commission, and Subchapter 5, Appeals of Initial Denials of Licensing Applications, were adopted as R.1989 d.429, effective August 21, 1989. See: 21 N.J.R. 1315(a), 21 N.J.R. 2524(a).

Subchapter 6, Rules Interpreting and Implementing the Real Estate Sales Full Disclosure Act, N.J.S.A. 45:15-16.27 et seq., was adopted as R.1990 d.455, effective September 17, 1990. See: 22 N.J.R. 1421(a), 22 N.J.R. 2969(d).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 5, Real Estate Commission, was readopted as R.1993 d.552, effective October 15, 1993. See: 25 N.J.R. 3597(b), 25 N.J.R. 5229(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 5, Real Estate Commission, was readopted as R.1998 d.497, effective September 14, 1998. As a part of R.1998 d.497, effective October 5, 1998, sections 1.1 through 1.44 of Subchapter 1, Rules and Regulations, were recodified as Subchapter 2, Education; Subchapter 3, Licensing; Subchapter 4, Employment Practices/Office and Licensee Supervision; Subchapter 5, Trust Accounts/Records of Brokerage Activity; Subchapter 6, Conduct of Business; Subchapter 7, Prohibited Activities; and Subchapter 8, Disciplinary Actions/Conditions for Restoration of License/Real Estate Guaranty Fund Claims. Also as a part of R.1998 d.497, effective October 5, 1998, Subchapter 2, Organizational Rules, was recodified as Subchapter 1; Subchapter 6, Rules Interpreting and Implementing the Real Estate Sales Full Disclosure Act, N.J.S.A. 45:15-16.27 et seq., was recodified as Subchapter 9; Subchapter 3, Petitions for Rulemaking, was recodified as Subchapter 10; Subchapter 4, Proceedings before the Commission, was recodified as Subchapter 11, Procedures on Disciplinary Actions, Contested Applications, Declaratory Ruling Requests; and Subchapter 5, Appeals of Initial Denials of Licensing Applications, was recodified as section 11.10. See: 30 N.J.R. 2333(a), 30 N.J.R. 3646(a).

Chapter 5, Real Estate Commission, was readopted as R.2004 d.130, effective March 5, 2004. See: 35 N.J.R. 4812(a), 36 N.J.R. 1780(a).

Subchapter 9A, Rules Interpreting and Implementing the New Jersey Real Estate Timeshare Act, N.J.S.A. 45:15-16.50 et seq., was adopted as

new rules by R.2009 d.222, effective July 6, 2009. See: 40 N.J.R. 3944(a), 41 N.J.R. 2663(a).

Chapter 5, Real Estate Commission, was readopted as R.2009 d.287, effective August 27, 2009. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

Subchapter 12, Continuing Education, was adopted as new rules by R.2011 d.184, effective July 18, 2011. See: 43 N.J.R. 369(a), 43 N.J.R. 1592(a).

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Case Notes

Fraud and failure to comply with record-keeping requirements warrant license revocation and imposition of fines. *New Jersey Real Estate Commission v. Tumolo and Rossell*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (REC) 1.

Revocation of real estate broker's license was justified. *New Jersey Real Estate Commission v. Roth*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (REC) 17.

Commingle of funds, accounting failures, as well as other violations, warranted permanent revocation of broker/salesperson license and imposition of fine. *New Jersey Real Estate Commission v. Duffy*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (REC) 13.

Commingle of funds, making misrepresentations to investigator, as well as other violations, warranted revocation of broker's license and imposition of fine. *New Jersey Real Estate Commission v. Eberhardt*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (REC) 53.

Commingle trust monies and failing to maintain separate account for escrow funds, as well as other violations, warranted revocation of broker's license, suspension of salesperson's license, and assessment of fine. *New Jersey Real Estate Commission v. Woods*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (REC) 25.

Failing to maintain as separate funds monies held as escrow agent, and other violations, warranted revocation of broker's license and assessment of fine. *New Jersey Real Estate Commission v. Brown*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (REC) 21.

11:5-5.5 Inspection of records

(a) Every licensee shall make available for inspection by the Commission or its designated representatives all records of transactions, books of account, instruments, documents and forms utilized or maintained by such licensee in the conduct of the licensed business, which may be pertinent to the conduct of the investigation of any specific complaint.

(b) To accomplish the objectives and carry out the duties prescribed by this Act, especially the provisions of N.J.S.A. 45:15-17, the Commission may issue subpoenas to any person, administer an oath or affirmation to any person, and conduct hearings in aid of any investigation or inquiry.

(c) All files on pending and closed sale, exchange or lease transactions, all files on listings for sales or rentals, and all property management files shall be maintained or stored at the offices of brokers licensed as employing brokers or corporate or partnership brokers. Upon terminating their employment with such a broker, and/or transferring to the employ of another such broker, no referral agent, salesperson or broker-salesperson shall remove or cause to be removed any of the contents of such files from the offices of the broker. The term "files" as used herein shall be construed to mean all transaction records required to be kept by brokers pursuant to N.J.A.C. 11:5-5.4.

As amended, R.1983 d.471, effective November 7, 1983.
See: 15 N.J.R. 1343(a), 15 N.J.R. 1865(c).

Language citing statute deleted in subsection (a).
Amended by R.1988 d.410, effective September 6, 1988.
See: 20 N.J.R. 883(a), 20 N.J.R. 2295(a).

Added (c).
Petition for Rulemaking: Upon termination from employment with a broker, no salesperson or broker salesperson may remove files from the office pertaining to sale or rental listings.
See: 23 N.J.R. 1968(e).
Public Notice: Petition to amend subsection (c).
See: 23 N.J.R. 2191(b).

Amended by R.1992 d.107, effective March 2, 1992.
See: 23 N.J.R. 3428(a), 23 N.J.R. 3739(a), 24 N.J.R. 852(b).

Meaning of "files" specified at (c).
Amended by R.1998 d.497, effective October 5, 1998.
See: 30 N.J.R. 2333(a), 30 N.J.R. 3646(a).

In (b), deleted "in addition to other powers conferred upon it by the Act" following "Commission"; and in (c), changed N.J.A.C. reference.
Amended by R.2012 d.006, effective January 3, 2012.
See: 43 N.J.R. 1791(a), 44 N.J.R. 86(b).

In (c), inserted "referral agent,".

Case Notes

Real estate licensing law exemption for attorneys held only to authorize attorneys to sell or rent real estate incidental to their normal practice of law; denial of broker's license to attorney who did not meet statutory apprenticeship and testing requirements upheld. *Spirito v. State, New Jersey Real Estate Commission*, 180 N.J.Super. 180, 434 A.2d 623 (App.Div.1981).

SUBCHAPTER 6. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**11:5-6.1 Advertising rules**

(a) Unless otherwise set forth herein, subsections (b) through (d) below shall apply to all categories of advertising including all publications, radio or television broadcasts, all electronic media including E-mail and the Internet, business stationery, business cards, business and legal forms and documents, and signs and billboards.

1. Individuals operating as sole proprietors and licensed as employing brokers shall conspicuously display on the exterior of their maintained place of business their name and the words "Licensed Real Estate Broker".

2. Firms licensed as corporate or partnership brokers shall conspicuously display on the exterior of their maintained place of business their regular business name and the name of the individual licensed as their broker of record and the words "Licensed Real Estate Broker".

(b) All advertising of any licensed individual, partnership, firm, or corporate broker shall include their regular business name which for the purposes of these rules, shall mean the name in which that individual, partnership, firm or corporation is on record with the Commission as doing business as a real estate broker. All advertising by a referral agent, a salesperson or a broker-salesperson shall include the name in which they are licensed and the regular business name of the individual, partnership, firm or corporate broker through whom they are licensed. If such advertisements contain a reference to the licensed status of the person placing the ad, their status as a referral agent, a salesperson or a broker-salesperson must be indicated through inclusion of a descriptive term as provided in (e) below. A referral agent or salesperson may not indicate in any advertisement or otherwise that he or she is licensed as a broker-salesperson.

1. In all advertisements which contain the name of a referral agent, a salesperson or a broker-salesperson, the regular business name of the individual, partnership, firm

or corporate broker through whom that person is licensed shall appear in larger print or be displayed in a more prominent manner than the name of the referral agent, salesperson or broker-salesperson.

2. Where a webpage on the worldwide web established by a referral agent, a salesperson, a broker-salesperson, or a team of such licensees is not linked electronically to the webpage of the broker through whom the person or team is licensed, the webpage shall display the telephone number and may display the street address of the licensed brokerage office from which the individual or team operates as real estate licensees. That information shall appear in wording as large as the predominant size wording on the webpage.

3. Where a webpage of an individual or team is linked electronically to the webpage of the broker through whom such person or persons are licensed, the webpage of the nonbroker licensee(s) shall display information which clearly indicates how to link to the broker. That information shall appear in wording as large as the predominant size wording on the webpage.

(c) All advertising, with the exception of lawn signs placed on residential properties containing four or fewer units, shall clearly indicate after the licensee's regular business name that the advertising licensee is engaged in the real estate brokerage business. Except as prescribed by N.J.S.A. 45:15-17(j), examples of permissible language shall include, but are not limited to, "Realtor," "Realtist," "real estate broker," "broker," or "real estate agency". Examples of prohibited language when used alone shall include, but are not limited to, "realty," "real estate," "land sales," and "land investments." This provision shall not apply when the word "agency" appears in the advertisement as part of the licensee's regular business name or when the licensee has legal or equitable ownership of the property.

(d) Any advertising which contains a home telephone number, cell-phone number, beeper or pager number, home fax number, or e-mail address of an individual referral agent, salesperson or broker-salesperson, or a team of such licensees, shall also include the telephone number and may include the street address of the licensed brokerage office from which the advertising licensee(s) operate. All such advertising shall also contain language identifying each number included in the advertising. For example, a home telephone number may be followed or preceded by the word "home" or the abbreviation "res."

1. No advertising shall represent that a location is a place at which the business of a real estate licensee is conducted unless that location is the licensed main office or a licensed branch office of the broker through whom the advertising licensee is licensed. Referral agents, salespersons and broker-salespersons shall not include in their advertisements any reference to a "home office."

(e) The business card of any licensed referral agent shall indicate that this licensee is a referral agent by the use of the

words referral agent or referral associate. The business card of any licensed salesperson shall indicate that this licensee is a salesperson by the use of the words salesperson or sales representative, or sales associate, or where permitted by law, realtor-associate or realtist associate. The business card of any licensed broker-salesperson shall indicate that this licensee is a broker-salesperson by the use of the words broker-associate, associate broker, realtor-associate or broker-salespersons. The business card of any licensed broker shall indicate that this licensee is a broker by use of the word broker or, where permitted by law, Realtor or Realtist.

(f) Any advertising which refers to amounts of down payment, monthly payment, or carrying charges, or which indicates that a mortgage is obtainable (where the mortgage referred to is not already a lien against the premises advertised), shall contain the words "to a qualified buyer".

(g) Any advertisement which sets forth amounts of down payment, monthly payment, carrying charges, taxes or mortgage money obtainable shall contain appropriate qualifying words such as "approximate" or "estimated," which qualifying words shall be clearly associated with the amounts set forth. If such amounts are mentioned the broker shall maintain written proof of the validity of these statements in the broker's files. Such written proof shall be maintained for a period of 12 months from the date upon which an advertisement containing such references shall have last appeared in any publication.

(h) With the exception of magazine or newspaper advertisements published under municipality headings, any advertisement for the sale, exchange or rental of real property, or any interest therein, shall designate the geographical area containing that property by specifying the municipality within which that property is located.

(i) No licensed individual, limited or general partnership, firm or corporation shall advertise or use any form of application or make any inquiry which expresses directly or indirectly any limitation, specification or discrimination as to race, religion, creed, color, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry or as to whether a person is handicapped as that term is defined in N.J.A.C. 11:5-6.4(h).

(j) Any use of an insignia, emblem, logo, trade name or other form of identification in any advertising or other public utterance, either by a single licensee or any group of licensees, which suggests or otherwise implies common ownership or common management among such licensees, shall be prohibited except in the case of branch offices controlled by a single broker or licensee and duly licensed as branch offices pursuant to the provision of N.J.S.A. 45:1-1 et seq. Nothing herein provided is intended to preclude or inhibit the use, advertising or display of any insignia, emblem, logo or trade name of any bona fide trade association by any licensee provided that such licensee is a member of such trade association.

1. The foregoing shall not apply to the displays which, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:15-12, are required to conspicuously appear on the exterior of every place of business maintained by New Jersey real estate brokers and to include the name of the broker and, in the case of business entities licensed as brokers, the name of the individual licensed as its authorized broker, and the words "Licensed Real Estate Broker."

(q) Any advertisement which includes any reference to a commission rate or compensation amount charged by the advertising licensee's brokerage firm or by one or more other brokerage firms shall also include the following statement: "In New Jersey commissions are negotiable." The said statement shall be included in the advertisement in a clear and conspicuous manner.

(r) No advertisement shall contain false, misleading or deceptive claims or misrepresentations. In all advertisements which make express or implied claims that are likely to be misleading in the absence of certain qualifying information such qualifying information shall be disclosed in the advertisement in a clear and conspicuous manner.

(s) No person licensed as a referral agent shall include in any advertisement any content stating or implying that he or she is authorized to engage in real estate brokerage activity beyond that which he or she is permitted under N.J.S.A. 45:15-3 or N.J.A.C. 11:5-6.10.

(t) On all advertisements, except business cards, referral agents shall include the following statement in a clear and conspicuous manner: Services limited to referring prospects to broker.

As amended, R.1976 d.276, effective August 31, 1976.

See: 8 N.J.R. 387(a), 8 N.J.R. 482(a).

As amended, R.1977 d.84, effective March 10, 1977.

See: 9 N.J.R. 91(d), 9 N.J.R. 178(a).

As amended, R.1978 d.42, effective January 31, 1978.

See: 9 N.J.R. 534(c), 10 N.J.R. 116(c).

As amended, R.1979 d.461, effective November 26, 1979.

See: 10 N.J.R. 499(a), 12 N.J.R. 44(b).

As amended, R.1980 d.52, effective January 31, 1980.

See: 12 N.J.R. 44(a), 12 N.J.R. 128(a).

As amended, R.1980 d.213, effective May 14, 1980.

See: 12 N.J.R. 44(a), 12 N.J.R. 343(a).

As amended, R.1980 d.279, effective June 26, 1980.

See: 12 N.J.R. 340(b), 12 N.J.R. 484(d).

As amended, R.1983 d.471, effective November 7, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1343(a), 15 N.J.R. 1865(c).

Time limits on compliance deleted.

As amended, R.1986 d.91, effective April 7, 1986.

See: 17 N.J.R. 666(a), 18 N.J.R. 699(a).

(m)3.-5. deleted.

Amended by R.1987 d.69, effective January 20, 1987.

See: 18 N.J.R. 1679(a), 19 N.J.R. 232(b).

Amended (d) and (e).

Petition: Notice of Action upon petition for Declaratory Ruling and/or

Rulemaking limiting the scope of Advertising Rules.

See: 19 N.J.R. 570(d), 19 N.J.R. 664(a).

Amended by R.1988 d.237, effective June 6, 1988.

See: 20 N.J.R. 497(a), 20 N.J.R. 1205(a).

Substantially amended subsection (j).

Amended by R.1989 d.447, effective August 21, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1312(a), 21 N.J.R. 2552(b).

Exempted residential lawn sign advertisement for properties of four or fewer units, corrected spelling of realtor and added new (n) regarding consent of exclusive listing broker.

Amended by R.1993 d.9, effective January 4, 1993 (operative May 4, 1993).

See: 24 N.J.R. 3484(a), 25 N.J.R. 178(b).

Requirements for signs, cards, etc. amended to show name of broker, identified as such.

Amended by R.1994 d.266, effective June 20, 1994 (operative July 1, 1994).

See: 26 N.J.R. 729(a), 26 N.J.R. 1194(a), 26 N.J.R. 1222(a), 26 N.J.R. 2581(b).

Amended by R.1997 d.26, effective January 21, 1997.

See: 28 N.J.R. 3064(a), 29 N.J.R. 365(a).

In (l), inserted reference to the seller regarding warranty payment; in (m)2, inserted reference to informational or educational; and added (m)2i.

Amended by R.1998 d.246, effective May 18, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 278(a), 30 N.J.R. 1827(a).

In (a), inserted "all electronic media including E-mail and the Internet," in the introductory paragraph; in (b), added new 1 through 3; rewrote (d); and in (m), substituted "certified or licensed appraiser" for "specialist or expert" in the introductory paragraph, added ", and coupons offering discounts on commissions charged by brokerage firms" at the end of li, and inserted a new lii.

Amended by R.1998 d.497, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 2333(a), 30 N.J.R. 3646(a).

In (g), deleted "without qualification," following "mentioned" in the second sentence; and in (i), changed N.J.A.C. reference.

Amended by R.2000 d.223, effective June 19, 2000 (operative September 17, 2000).

See: 31 N.J.R. 2678(a), 32 N.J.R. 2242(b).

In (n), added l.

Amended by R.2001 d.236, effective July 16, 2001 (operative October 15, 2001).

See: 32 N.J.R. 2205(a), 33 N.J.R. 2532(a).

In (a), substituted "(o)" for "(n)"; in (b)1, substituted "In" for "With the exception of business cards, in"; in (d), substituted "Any" for "With the exception of business cards, any" in the introductory paragraph; in (g), deleted "unqualified" preceding "references shall"; added (o).

Amended by R.2002 d.346, effective November 4, 2002 (operative February 2, 2003).

See: 33 N.J.R. 3620(a), 34 N.J.R. 3832(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2004 d.130, effective April 5, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 4812(a), 36 N.J.R. 1780(a).

In (e), substituted "the words broker-associate, associate broker, realtor-associate or" for "any of the aforementioned words or by the use of" in the second sentence.

Amended by R.2012 d.006, effective January 3, 2012.

See: 43 N.J.R. 1791(a), 44 N.J.R. 86(b).

In the introductory paragraph of (b), and in (b)1 and (b)2, inserted "referral agent, a" throughout; In the introductory paragraph of (b) and in (b)1, inserted "a" preceding "broker-salesperson" throughout; in the introductory paragraph of (b), inserted "referral agent or"; in (b)1, inserted a comma following "broker-salesperson", and inserted the second occurrence of "referral agent,"; in the introductory paragraph of (d), substituted "e-mail" for "E-mail" and inserted "referral agent,"; in (d)1, substituted "Referral agents, salespersons" for "Salespersons"; in (e), inserted the first sentence; and added (s) and (t).

Case Notes

New Jersey Land Sales Full Disclosure Act discriminated in its plain effect against interstate commerce and violated dormant commerce clause. *Old Coach Development Corp., Inc. v. Tanzman*, C.A.3 (N.J.)1989, 881 F.2d 1227.

Barring real estate broker's merchandise coupon program pursuant to statute was not improper regulation of competition. *Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate Services, Inc. v. New Jersey Real Estate Com'n*, 242 N.J.Super. 354, 576 A.2d 938 (A.D.1990).

Statute prohibiting real estate brokers from using promotions involving "prizes" did not deprive broker that wished to use merchandise coupon program of property without due process. *Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate Services, Inc. v. New Jersey Real Estate Com'n*, 242 N.J.Super. 354, 576 A.2d 938 (A.D.1990).

Website offering 1% Cash-Back Bonus on the purchase of a home presented incomplete and misleading information where the prospective client was lulled into assuming that the bonus was available from all sellers and payable at closing, when in fact payment of the bonus to some clients might be made at some undefined future date (adopting 2009 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 502). *N.J. Real Estate Comm'n v. Tonge*, OAL Dkt. No. BKI 08380-08, 2009 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 740, Final Decision (September 16, 2009).

Commingling trust monies and failing to maintain separate account for escrow funds, as well as other violations, warranted revocation of broker's license, suspension of salesperson's license, and assessment of fine. *New Jersey Real Estate Commission v. Woods*. 92 N.J.A.R.2d (REC) 25.

11:5-6.2 Contracts of sale, leases and listing agreements

(a) The following paragraphs specify licensees' obligations to obtain written confirmation of the intentions of, and

to deliver copies of documents to, parties to a real estate transaction.

1. Where a licensee memorializes the terms of an offer or counter-offer on a writing which will itself become an "instrument" as defined in (a)3 below, the licensee shall deliver to the maker of such an offer or counter-offer a clear copy of the executed offer or counter-offer immediately upon its being signed, and initialed if necessary as provided in this section, by the maker of the offer or counter-offer. Any addition, deletion, or other change in any such offer or counter-offer shall be initialed by the party proposing such a revision and, if accepted, by the other party to the transaction.

2. Where a licensee records the terms of an offer or counter-offer on a writing which is not intended to be binding upon either party, and which so states on its face, in the event that the licensee secures the signature and/or initials of any party on such a writing, the licensee shall provide to the signing and/or initialing party a clear copy of the writing as signed and/or initialed by them.