

Condominium vendor committed unconscionable practice within scope of Consumer Fraud Act. *Cybul v. Atrium Palace Syndicate*, 272 N.J.Super. 330, 639 A.2d 1146 (A.D.1994), certification denied 137 N.J. 311, 645 A.2d 140.

Penalties could not be imposed on condominium vendor for failure to obtain temporary certificates of occupancy. *Department of Community Affairs, Div. of Housing and Urban Development v. Atrium Palace Syndicate*, 259 N.J.Super. 578, 614 A.2d 1069 (A.D.1992).

Purchasers were entitled to return of deposit for failure of vendors to timely perform. *Department of Community Affairs, Div. of Housing and Development v. Atrium Palace Syndicate*, 247 N.J.Super. 511, 589 A.2d 1046 (A.D.1991), certification denied 126 N.J. 338, 598 A.2d 895.

Not substantially complete condominium unit could not be occupied. *Department of Community Affairs, Div. of Housing and Development v. Atrium Palace Syndicate*, 247 N.J.Super. 511, 589 A.2d 1046 (A.D. 1991), certification denied 126 N.J. 338, 598 A.2d 895.

Certificates of occupancy cannot bar occupancy. *Department of Community Affairs, Div. of Housing and Development v. Atrium Palace Syndicate*, 247 N.J.Super. 511, 589 A.2d 1046 (A.D.1991), certification denied 126 N.J. 338, 598 A.2d 895.

Developer's failure to timely issue temporary certificate of occupancy (TCO) required refund of purchasers' deposits. *Department of Community Affairs, Div. of Housing and Development v. Atrium Palace Syndicate*, 244 N.J.Super. 329, 582 A.2d 821 (A.D.1990), certification denied 126 N.J. 317, 598 A.2d 878.

Building does not qualify for property tax exemption if certificate of occupancy issued after assessment date; use of building for exempt purposes prior to issuance of certificate irrelevant to exemption issue (citing former N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.7). *Grace & Peace Fellowship Church, Inc. v. Cranford Twp.*, 4 N.J.Tax 391 (Tax Ct.1982).

5:23-2.24 Conditions of certificate of occupancy

(a) Certificate of occupancy shall be conditioned upon the following:

1. That the completed project meets the conditions of the construction permit, and all prior approvals and has been done substantially in accordance with the code and with those portions of the plans and specifications controlled by the code;
2. That all required fees have been paid in full;
3. That all necessary inspections have been completed and that the completed project meets the requirements of the regulations;
4. That all violations have been corrected and that any assessed penalties have been paid;
5. That all protective devices and equipment required to be installed by the regulations will continue to be operational as required by the regulations.

(b) No certificate of occupancy shall be issued for any new home, built by a builder, as such terms are defined in N.J.A.C. 5:25-1.3, except after filing by the builder with the construction official of proof that the new home has been enrolled in either the State New Home Warranty Security Plan or a private plan approved by the Department of Community Affairs. If the new home is enrolled in the State New Home Warranty Security Plan, proof shall be in the form of a validated copy of the Certificate of Partic-

ipation, required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:25-5.5, and proof of payment of the warranty premium.

(c) No certificate of occupancy shall be issued for any new home built by an owner or in which any design, construction, plumbing or electrical work has been done by the owner unless the owner shall file with the construction official an affidavit in which he certifies that all work has been done in conformity with applicable law, acknowledges that work done by him or by any subcontractor working under his supervision, is not covered under the New Home Warranty and Builders' Registration Act (N.J.S.A. 46:3B-1 et seq.) and states that he will disclose this to any person purchasing the property from him within 10 years of the date of issuance of a certificate of occupancy. The affidavit shall be filed on a form prescribed by the Department of Community Affairs.

(d) No certificate of occupancy shall be issued for any building used or intended to be used as a rooming house or a boarding house, as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Rooming and Boarding House Act of 1979 (P.L. 1979, c.496; N.J.S.A. 55:13B-1 et seq.), except after filing by the owner with the construction official of a photocopy of a license to own a rooming or boarding house issued to the owner by the Department of Community Affairs.

(e) No certificate of occupancy shall be issued for a hotel or multiple dwelling, as defined in the Hotel and Multiple Dwelling Law (N.J.S.A. 55:13A-1 et seq.), except after filing by the owner with the construction official of a photocopy of a certificate of registration issued by the Bureau of Housing Inspection of the Department of Community Affairs.

(f) No certificate of occupancy shall be issued for any building containing one or more elevators unless all of the elevators in the building have been registered with the Department in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-12.

(g) No certificate of occupancy or certificate of approval shall be issued for any building or project that includes a vapor delivery liquefied petroleum gas installation that is greater than 250 gallons, but not more than 2,000 gallons, except after filing by the owner with the construction official of a photocopy of a notice of LP gas installation filed, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:18-6.4(a), with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Codes and Standards, Bureau of Codes and Services, PO Box 816, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0816.

(h) No certificate of occupancy shall be required in the case of minor work as provided for by N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.17A.

Amended by R.1991 d.509, effective October 7, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 2236(a), 23 N.J.R. 3001(a).

Text added at (f).

Amended by R.1995 d.476, effective September 5, 1995 (operative January 1, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 1846(a), 27 N.J.R. 3325(b).

Rewrote (f).

Amended by R.2001 d.141, effective May 7, 2001.

See: 32 N.J.R. 3917(a), 33 N.J.R. 746(a), 33 N.J.R. 1399(d).

Added new (g); recodified former (g) as (h).

Amended by R.2003 d.216, effective May 19, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 16(a), 35 N.J.R. 2203(a).

Rewrote (a)1.

Amended by R.2003, d.200, effective May 19, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 7(a), 35 N.J.R. 2187(a).

In (g), amended the N.J.A.C. reference and substituted "Bureau of Code Services" for "Bureau of Boiler and Pressure Compliance".

Case Notes

Citation to former N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.7; municipal requirement for payment of property taxes before permit issuance invalid as preempted by legislation. *Home Builders League of South Jersey, Inc. v. Evesham Twp.*, 174 N.J.Super. 252, 416 A.2d 81 (Law Div.1980).

5:23-2.25 Establishment of fees

The municipality, in accordance with this chapter, shall establish by ordinance enforcing agency fees for the following activities: plan review; construction permits; certificate of occupancy; elevator device inspections and tests; demolition permit; moving of building permit; lead abatement clearance certificate; annual electrical inspection of swimming pools, spas and hot tubs; and sign permit. The fee shall be collected prior to the issuance of the permit or certificate. A schedule of such fees shall be posted in the office of the construction official and shall be accessible to the public.

Amended by R.1991 d.325, effective July 1, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 805(a), 23 N.J.R. 2046(a).

Elevator activities added.

Amended by R.1995 d.381, effective July 17, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 970(a), 27 N.J.R. 2715(a).

Administrative correction.

See: 29 N.J.R. 2267(a).

Administrative correction.

See: 29 N.J.R. 3721(a).

Deleted reference to certificate of compliance and certificate of approval.

Amended by R.2000 d.47, effective February 7, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2314(a), 32 N.J.R. 443(a).

Inserted a reference to annual electrical inspection of swimming pools, spas and hot tubs in the first sentence.

Case Notes

Citation to former N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.8 fee standards; municipal requirement for payment of property taxes before permit issuance invalid as preempted by legislation. *Home Builders League of South Jersey, Inc. v. Evesham Twp.*, 174 N.J.Super. 252, 416 A.2d 81 (Law Div.1980).

5:23-2.26 Plan review fees

Twenty percent of the construction permit fee shall be deemed to be the plan review fee. When a department plan review fee has been collected pursuant to the regulations or when a plan review is waived, then the enforcing agency construction permit fee shall be reduced by 20 per cent from the amount otherwise specified in the municipal enforcing agency fee schedule.

5:23-2.27 Refunds

In the case of discontinuance of a building project, the volume of the work actually completed shall be computed. Any excess for the uncompleted work shall be returned to the permit holder; except that all penalties that may have been imposed on the permit holder under the requirements of the regulations shall first be collected. Plan review fees are not refundable.

5:23-2.28 Volume computation

(a) General: For the determination of the permit fees, the volume of the structure shall be computed as provided in this section.

(b) Structures with basements: The volume of the structure shall include all enclosed dormers, porches, penthouses and other enclosed portions of the structure extending from the basement or cellar floor to the mean height of a pitched roof, or the average height of the top of the roof beams of a flat roof.

(c) Structures without basements: For structures without basements or cellars, the volume shall be based on the height measured to a level located one-fifth the distance from the first floor level to the bottom of the footings, but not to exceed 2½ feet below the first floor level.

(d) Open sheds: For open sheds and structures of a similar character, the volume shall be measured within the perimeter of the roof for a height from the grade line to the mean roof level.

(e) No fee shall be required for premanufactured construction, assembly or components transported to a construction site. A fee shall be required for work performed at the site, including, but not limited to, foundation systems, structural installations and external utility connections.

(f) No fee shall be required for commercial farm buildings, or portions of, constructed of pre-engineered systems specified in N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.2(d)3. A fee shall be required, unless exempted, for commercial farm building work performed at the site.

As amended, R.1982 d.7, eff. February 1, 1982.

See: 13 N.J.R. 717(a), 14 N.J.R. 142(a).

(e) added.

Amended by R.1995 d.603, effective November 20, 1995 (operative March 20, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 2655(a), 27 N.J.R. 4699(a).

5:23-2.29 Entry

(a) The owner of any premises upon which a building or structure is to be constructed shall be deemed to have consented to inspection, by the enforcing agency, of the entire premises and of any and all construction being performed on it until a certificate of occupancy has been issued.