June 2024 Volume 20 Issue 6

Monthly Newsletter of the Georgia Real Estate Commission

GREC RENews

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2024 Calendar

Georgia Instructor Training -GIT

 October 23-25 <u>www.greea.org</u>

GREC Annual School Meeting December 5-6 Savannah, GA



Case of Carelessness

Consider the following summary of an investigative case of the Georgia Real Estate Commission. The actions taken by the Salesperson provide clear examples of a lack of understanding or compliance with the License Law, Rules, and Regulations. Although the Salesperson made several bad decisions, better Broker supervision might have prevented the violations. The Salesperson:

- failed to include the name and telephone number of her affiliated Firm on her personal website when advertising specific properties for sale;
- (2) included the company names on her personal website "ABC Realty.com" or "ABC Realty," company names* **not** licensed by the Commission;
- (3) transferred her license in June of 2020 to a new firm and on her personal website included the Firm's name as "XYZ Inc." when, in fact, the correct Firm name is "XYZ Real Estate Brokerage, LLC;" andcontinued on page 2

Visit the <u>GREC CONNECT</u> session weekly on Fridays 9:00 AM Discussion of different topics, such as keeping up with CE and renewals, updates for schools and instructors, Q&A, and more.

Click the QR Code to the Left to join the session.

Kim Yarrington, GREC Education Advisor <u>education@grec.state.ga.us</u>

Job Opportunity at the Georgia Real Estate Commission Opening for position as Investigator with GREC.

Investigator Click for More Information Information Specialist Click for More Information

June 2024 Meeting - Commission Actions Taken

Cases Sent to the Attorney General for Review and Disposition by	
Consent Order or by Hearing	0
Cease & Desist Orders Issued	0
Citations Issued	9
Letter of Findings Issued	0
Consent Orders Entered Into	0
Final Orders of Revocation of Licensure	0
Cases Closed for Insufficient Evidence or No Apparent Violation	5
Licensing Cases - Applicant has a Criminal Conviction - License Issued	2
Licensing Cases - Applicant has a Criminal Conviction - License Denied	0
Total	16

Click here to review a legend of the disciplinary actions the Commission may impose. Page 1

<u>To sign up to</u> receive the GREC <u>RENewsletter</u> Click Here

Online Courses from GREC \$10 each 3 Hour CE Course Total of 9 Hours CE Available (Approved as License Law CE and approved as Instructor CE)

"Avoiding Trust Account Trouble"

"Practicing Real Estate & Staying Out of Trouble"

"Being a Broker and Staying Out of Trouble" Click Here

SUBMIT Comments & Suggestions

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Case of Carelessness

(4) failed to submit her personal website to her Broker for review and approval until July 30, 20**22 (2 years later)**

Within 45 days of the Citation issued by the Commission, the Salesperson was required to pay the total amount of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00), which included a fine against of \$300.00 as well as reimburse the Commission \$300.00; for its administrative, investigative, and legal costs and expenses.

The Salesperson was also required to successfully complete a three-hour course approved by the Commission titled "Practicing Real Estate and Staying Out of Trouble" within 45 days or be subject to further sanctions by the Real Estate Commission.

*All company names are fictional.



Absolutely Must Know Section

Maintaining and Retaining Records

Real Estate Brokerage

Three(5) years for Real estate Brokerage Firms to retain records See Rule 520-1-.08 and 520-1-.10 for further details of the records that must be maintained and available to the Georgia Real Estate Commission upon request.

- <u>Rule 520-1-.08 Managing Trust Accounts</u> and <u>Trust Funds</u>
- <u>Rule 520-1-.10 Handling Real Estate</u> <u>Transactions</u>
- "Retention of Copies of Records and Documents. ...required by law to be maintained in a Broker's file for three (3) years shall be made available to authorized agents of the Commission upon reasonable request and at a reasonable cost to the Commission. "

Real Estate Schools

Five (5) years for Real estate Schools to retain records See Rule for further details of the records that must be maintained and available the Georgia Real Estate Commission upon request.

Rule 520-2-.02 Real Estate
Schools

"Copies of documents and other records which Licensees are required by law and the Commission's rules to maintain may be maintained in any records storage system that utilizes paper, film, electronic, or other media ..."

Focus on "Records"

Examples of types of records that must be maintained in the Broker's Files:

- Files related to maintaining a Trust Account as required by any Broker under O.C.G.A. Section <u>43-40-20</u>
- Copies of sales contracts, brokerage engagements, closing statements, leases, and other documents related to real estate transactions
- Documents related to any transaction where the Broker is identified in a sales contract, brokerage engagement, closing statement, lease, or other document related to a real estate transaction;
- Documnents related or identifying any Brokerage Firm that participates in the negotiations involving a sales contract, brokerage engagement, lease, or other contractual document related to a real estate transaction;...