

239.597.1666 239.597.7725 fax www.NABOR.com www.NaplesArea.com 1455 Pine Ridge Road Naples, FL 34109

Real life. Real answers.

To Whom It May Concern:

REALTOR[®] is a registered collective membership mark which may be used only by real estate professionals who are members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS[®] and subscribe to its strict Code of Ethics.

Pursuant to your request, please <u>click here</u> to view and/or print a formal Ethics Complaint Form. Please note that Ethics Complaints must be filed with the Naples Area Board of REALTORS[®] ("NABOR") within one hundred eighty (180) days after the facts constituting the matter complained of could have been known in the exercise of reasonable diligence or within one hundred eighty (180) days after the conclusion of the transaction, whichever is later.

In formulating your complaint, you **MUST** include a written summary of what transpired to make you feel an ethics violation has occurred. Please be sure that you refer to a specific article(s) of the Code of Ethics so that our Grievance Committee can determine whether or not sufficient evidence exists to warrant the holding of a Professional Standards Hearing. <u>Include any documentation</u>, such as copies of listing(s)/sales contract(s), lease agreements, correspondence and/or any pertinent material that would help the Grievance Committee make their decision. Certified Return Receipt mail is recommended if you wish confirmation of receipt.

Further, and this is important, when a REALTOR[®] is charged with a violation of the Code of Ethics, the complaining party may not recover damages, either actual or punitive, nor can a REALTOR[®]'s license with the State of Florida be suspended or terminated. Should a REALTOR[®] be found guilty of violating of one or more articles of the Code of Ethics, possible sanctions could include a Letter of Warning, a Letter of Reprimand, a fine up to \$15,000.00 payable to NABOR, required attendance at an educational seminar, probation, suspension from NABOR and/or expulsion from NABOR. NABOR is not empowered to force a REALTOR[®] to pay damages of any kind.

Once the formal Ethics Complaint Form is fully completed and returned to NABOR, it will be presented to the Grievance Committee for their review at the next available meeting. Following their review, you will be notified as to their actions, which will be one of the following: dismissal, request for more information or forwarded to a Professional Standards Panel for a hearing. Should there be a hearing, you will be furnished with a copy of the Respondent's response, and notification of the hearing date, location and time. <u>Click here</u> to view and/or print a summary of what happens before, during, and after an ethics complaint is filed.

Important: You <u>must</u> be present for the hearing. The Hearing Panel will not make a decision solely on written material.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this process.

Sincerely,

Lorie Chase

Corie Chase Chief Administrative Officer