

Working with Real Estate Agents

When buying or selling real estate, you may find it helpful to have a real estate agent assist you. Real estate agents can provide many useful services and work with you in different ways. In some real estate transactions, the agents work for the seller. In others, the seller and buyer may each have agents. And sometimes the same agents work for both the buyer and the seller. It is important for you to know whether an agent is representing you as your agent or simply assisting you while acting as an agent of the other party.

This brochure addresses the various types of agency relationships that may be available to you. It should help you decide which relationship you want to have with a real estate agent. It will also give you useful information about the various services real estate agents can provide buyers and sellers, and it will help explain how real estate agents are paid.

Sellers

Seller's Agent

If you are selling real estate, you may want to “list” your property for sale with a real estate firm. If so, you will sign a “listing agreement” authorizing the firm and its agents to represent you in your dealings with buyers as your seller's agent. You may also be asked to allow agents from other firms to help find a buyer for your property.

Be sure to read and understand the listing agreement before you sign it. Your agent must give you a copy of the listing agreement after you sign it.

Duties to Seller: The listing firm and its agents must • promote your best interests • be loyal to you • follow your lawful instructions • provide you with all material facts that could influence your decisions • use reasonable skill, care and diligence, and • account for all monies they handle for you. Once you have signed the listing agreement, the firm and its agents may not give any confidential information about you to prospective buyers or their agents without your permission so long as they represent you. But **until you sign the listing agreement, you should avoid telling the listing agent anything you would not want a buyer to know.**

Services and Compensation: To help you sell your property, the listing firm and its agents will offer to perform a number of services for you. These may include • helping you price your property • advertising and marketing your property • giving you all required property disclosure forms for you to complete • negotiating for you the best possible price and terms • reviewing all written offers with you and • otherwise promoting your interests.

For representing you and helping you sell your property, you will pay the listing firm a sales commission or fee. The listing agreement must state the amount or method for determining the commission or fee and whether you will allow the firm to share its commission with agents representing the buyer.

Dual Agent

You may even permit the listing firm and its agents to represent you and a buyer at the same time. This “dual agency relationship” is most likely to happen if an agent with your listing firm is working as a buyer's agent with someone who wants to purchase your property. If this occurs and you have not already agreed to a dual agency relationship in your listing agreement, your listing agent will ask you to amend your listing agreement to permit the agent to act as agent for both you and the buyer.

It may be difficult for a dual agent to advance the interests of both the buyer and seller. Nevertheless, a dual agent must treat buyers and sellers fairly and equally. Although the dual agent owes them the same duties, buyers and sellers can prohibit dual agents from divulging **certain** confidential information about them to the other party. Some firms also offer a form of dual agency called “designated agency” where one agent in the firm represents the seller and another agent represents the buyer. This option (when available) may allow each “designated agent” to more fully represent each party.

If you choose the “dual agency” option, remember that since a dual agent's loyalty is divided between parties with competing interests, it is especially important that you have a clear understanding of • what your relationship is with the dual agent and • what the agent will be doing for you in the transaction.

Buyers

When buying real estate, you may have several choices as to how you want a real estate firm and its agents to work with you. For example, you may want them to represent only you (as a buyer's agent). You may be willing for them to represent both you and the seller at the same time (as a dual agent). Or you may agree to let them represent only the seller (seller's agent or subagent). Some agents will offer you a choice of these services. Others may not.

Buyer's Agent

Duties to Buyer: If the real estate firm and its agents represent you, they must • promote your best interests • be loyal to you • follow your lawful instructions • provide you with all material facts that could influence your decisions • use reasonable skill, care and diligence, and • account for all monies they handle for you. Once you have agreed (either orally or in writing) for the firm and its agents to be your buyer's agent, they may not give any confidential information about you to sellers or their agents without your permission so long as they represent you. But **until you make this agreement with your buyer's agent, you should avoid telling the agent anything you would not want a seller to know.**

Unwritten Agreements: To make sure that you and the real estate firm have a clear understanding of what your relationship will be and what the firm will do for you, you may want to have a written agreement. However, some firms may be willing to represent and assist you for a time as a *buyer's agent* without a written agreement. But if you decide to make an offer to purchase a particular property, the agent must obtain a written agency agreement before writing the offer. If you do not sign it, the agent can no longer represent and assist you and is no longer required to keep information about you confidential.

Be sure to read and understand any agency agreement before you sign it. Once you sign it, the agent must give you a copy of it.

Services and Compensation: Whether you have a written or unwritten agreement, a buyer's agent will perform a number of services for you. These may include helping you • find a suitable property • arrange financing • learn more about the property and • otherwise promote your best interests. If you have a written agency agreement, the agent can also help you prepare and submit a written offer to the seller.

A buyer's agent can be compensated in different ways. For example, you can pay the agent out of your own pocket. Or the agent may seek compensation from the seller or listing agent first, but require you to pay if the listing agent refuses. Whatever the case, be sure your compensation arrangement with your buyer's agent is spelled out in a buyer agency agreement before you make an offer to purchase property and that you carefully read and understand the compensation provision.

Dual Agent

You may permit an agent or firm to represent you and the seller at the same time. This “dual agency relationship” is most likely to happen if you become interested in a property listed with your buyer's agent or the agent's firm. If this occurs and you have not already agreed to a dual agency relationship in your (written or oral) buyer agency agreement, your buyer's agent will ask you to amend the buyer agency agreement or sign a separate agreement or document permitting him or her to act as agent for both you and the seller. It may be difficult for a dual agent to advance the interests of both the buyer and seller. Nevertheless, a dual agent must treat buyers and sellers fairly and equally. Although the dual agent owes them the same duties, buyers and sellers can prohibit dual agents from divulging certain confidential information about them to the other party.

Some firms also offer a form of dual agency called “designated dual agency” where one agent in the firm represents the seller and another agent represents the buyer. This option (when available) may allow each “designated agent” to more fully represent each party.

If you choose the “dual agency” option, remember that since a dual agent's loyalty is divided between parties with competing interests, it is especially important that you have a clear understanding of • what your relationship is with the dual agent and • what the agent will be doing for you in the transaction. This can best be accomplished by putting the agreement in writing at the earliest possible time.

Seller's Agent Working With a Buyer

If the real estate agent or firm that you contact does not offer buyer agency or you do not want them to act as your buyer agent, you can still work with the firm and its agents. However, they will be acting as the seller's agent (or "subagent"). The agent can still help you find and purchase property and provide many of the same services as a buyer's agent. The agent must be fair with you and provide you with any "material facts" (such as a leaky roof) about properties.

But remember, the agent represents the seller-not you-and therefore must try to obtain for the seller the best possible price and terms for the seller's property. Furthermore, a seller's agent is required to give the seller any information about you (even personal, financial or confidential information) that would help the seller in the sale of his or her property. Agents must tell you in writing if they are sellers' agents before you say anything that can help the seller. But **until you are sure that an agent is not a seller's agent, you should avoid saying anything you do not want a seller to know.**

Sellers' agents are compensated by the sellers.

Disclosure of Seller Subagency

(Complete, if applicable)

When showing you property and assisting you in the purchase of a property, the above agent and firm will represent the SELLER. For more information, see "Seller's Agent Working with a Buyer" in the brochure.

Agent's Initials Acknowledging Disclosure: _____

For Buyer/Seller

Agent Name: _____

License Number: _____

Firm Name: _____

Date: _____

Working with Real Estate Agents

Agents must retain this acknowledgment for their files. This is not a contract.

By signing, I acknowledge that the agent named below furnished a copy of this brochure and reviewed it with me.

Buyer or Seller Name (Print or Type): John A. Buyer

Buyer or Seller Signature: _____

Buyer or Seller Name (Print or Type): Susie Q. Buyer

Buyer or Seller Signature: _____

Date: _____

Firm Name: _____

Agent Name: _____

License Number: _____

Disclosure of Seller Subagency

(Complete, if applicable)

When showing you property and assisting you in the purchase of a property, the above agent and firm will represent the SELLER. For more information, see "Seller's Agent Working with a Buyer" in the brochure.

Buyer's Initials Acknowledging Disclosure: _____

(Note: This brochure is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a contract for service.)

The North Carolina Real Estate Commission
P.O. Box 17100 Raleigh, North Carolina 27619-7100
919/875-3700
Web Site: www.ncrec.gov REC 3.45 3/1/13

EXCLUSIVE BUYER AGENCY AGREEMENT

[Consult "Guidelines" (Form 201G) for guidance in completing this form]

This EXCLUSIVE BUYER AGENCY AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is entered into (Date) May 1, 2023, between John A. Buyer, Susie Q. Buyer as Buyer(s) ("Buyer"), and Zane Gerring Real Estate, Inc. ("Firm")

as the Buyer's exclusive agent to assist the Buyer in the acquisition of real property which may include any purchase, option and/or exchange on terms and conditions acceptable to Buyer. The individual agent who signs this Agreement on behalf of the Firm shall, on behalf of the Firm, be primarily responsible for ensuring that the Firm's duties hereunder are fulfilled; however, it is understood and agreed that other agents of the Firm may be assigned to fulfill such duties if deemed appropriate by the Firm. For purposes of this Agreement, the term "Firm," as the context may require, shall be deemed to include the individual agent who signs this Agreement and any other agents of the Firm.

Buyer represents that, as of the commencement date of this Agreement, the Buyer is not a party to a buyer representation agreement with any other real estate firm. Buyer has received a copy of the "WORKING WITH REAL ESTATE AGENTS" brochure and has reviewed it with Firm. Buyer further represents that Buyer has disclosed to Firm information about any properties of the type described in paragraph 1 below that Buyer has visited at any open houses or that Buyer has been shown by any other real estate firm.

1. TYPE OF PROPERTY. [X] Residential (improved and unimproved) [] Commercial (improved and unimproved) [] Other

(a) General Location: Guilford (b) Other:

2. EFFECT OF AGREEMENT. Buyer intends to acquire real property of the type described in paragraph 1. By employing Firm as Buyer's exclusive agent, Buyer agrees to conduct all negotiations for such property through Firm, and to refer to Firm all inquiries received in any form from other real estate firms, prospective sellers or any other source, during the time this Agreement is in effect.

3. DURATION OF AGENCY. Firm's authority as Buyer's exclusive agent shall begin May 1, 2023, and subject to paragraph 4, shall expire at midnight, November 1, 2023, or when Buyer acquires real property of the type described in paragraph 1, whichever occurs sooner.

4. COMPENSATION OF FIRM.

(a) Firm acknowledges receipt of a non-refundable retainer fee in the amount of \$ N/A which shall not be credited toward any compensation due Firm under this Agreement.

(b) Buyer agrees that Firm's fee for services hereunder shall be in the amount of 3% ReSale, 2.5-3% New, 3% REO, 3% Short Sale, 3% Unrepresented Seller, 3% Auction, 3-5% Land ("Fee") (Insert dollar amount, percentage of purchase price, or other method of determining Firm's compensation for each type of property the Buyer may purchase, such as resale, new construction, land/lot and/or unrepresented seller. Do not insert N/A or a zero (\$0)).

(i) Firm shall seek the Fee from a cooperating listing firm (through the listing firm's offer of compensation in MLS or otherwise) or from the seller if there is no listing firm, and Buyer agrees that Firm shall be entitled to receive same in consideration for Firm's services hereunder.

(ii) If Buyer purchases property where the compensation offered by the listing firm and/or seller is less than the Fee, or where no compensation is offered by either the listing firm or the seller, Buyer and Firm agree that Buyer will pay the difference between the Fee and the compensation offered unless prohibited by law. Firm will timely inform Buyer if the compensation offered is less than expected.

(iii) If additional compensation, incentive, bonus, rebate and/or other valuable consideration ("Additional Compensation") is offered through the MLS or otherwise, Buyer will permit the Firm to receive it in addition to the Fee. Firm shall timely disclose the promise or expectation of receiving any such Additional Compensation and confirm the disclosure in writing before Buyer makes or accepts an offer to buy. (Note: NCAR Form #770 may be used to confirm the disclosure of any such Additional Compensation)

(c) The compensation shall be deemed earned under any of the following circumstances:

(i) If, during the term of this Agreement, Buyer, any assignee of Buyer or any person/legal entity acting on behalf of Buyer directly or indirectly enters into an agreement to purchase, option, and/or exchange any property of the type described above regardless of the manner in which Buyer was introduced to the property; or



North Carolina Association of REALTORS®, Inc.

Buyer initials Individual agent initials



- (ii) If, within 60 days after expiration of this Agreement, Buyer enters into a contract to acquire property introduced to Buyer during the term of this Agreement by Firm or any third party, unless Buyer has entered into a valid buyer agency agreement with another real estate firm; or
- (iii) If, having entered into an enforceable contract to acquire property during the term of this Agreement, Buyer defaults under the terms of that contract.
- (d) The compensation will be due and payable at distribution of proceeds from sale of the Property by the closing attorney or upon Buyer's default of any purchase agreement. If Buyer defaults, the total compensation that would have been due the Firm will be due and payable immediately in cash from the Buyer. No assignment of rights in real property obtained for Buyer or any assignee of Buyer or any person/legal entity acting on behalf of Buyer pursuant to this Agreement shall operate to defeat any of Firm rights under this Agreement.

NOTE: Buyer understands and acknowledges that there is the potential for a conflict of interest generated by a percentage of price based fee for representing Buyer. The amount, format or rate of real estate commission is not fixed by law, but is set by each broker individually, and may be negotiable between Buyer and Firm.

- (e) Attorney Fees and Costs. If Firm is the prevailing party in any legal proceeding brought by Firm against Buyer to recover the Fee, Firm shall be entitled to recover from Buyer reasonable attorney fees and court costs incurred by Firm in connection with the proceeding.
- (f) If Buyer purchases unimproved property, Agent may assist Buyer in identifying a contractor to make improvements on the property, subject to the provisions of paragraph 10. Buyer acknowledges and understands that in such a case, the contractor may offer to compensate Agent. Agent shall disclose to Buyer the existence of such an offer of compensation before Buyer enters into a contract with the contractor, and Buyer hereby consents to the receipt by Agent of any such compensation.

5. **OTHER POTENTIAL BUYERS.** Buyer understands that other prospective purchasers represented by Firm may seek property, submit offers, and contract to purchase property through Firm, including the same or similar property as Buyer seeks to purchase. Buyer acknowledges, understands and consents to such representation of other prospective purchasers by Firm through its agents.

6. **FIRM'S DUTIES.** During the term of this Agreement, Firm shall promote the interests of Buyer by: (a) performing the terms of this Agreement; (b) seeking property at a price and terms acceptable to Buyer; (c) presenting in a timely manner all written offers or counter offers to and from Buyer; (d) disclosing to Buyer all material facts related to the property or concerning the transaction of which Firm has actual knowledge; and (e) accounting for in a timely manner all money and property received in which Buyer has or may have an interest. Unless otherwise provided by law or Buyer consents in writing to the release of the information, Firm shall maintain the confidentiality of all personal and financial information and other matters identified as confidential by Buyer, if that information is received from Buyer during the brokerage relationship. In satisfying these duties, Firm shall exercise ordinary care, comply with all applicable laws and regulations, and treat all prospective sellers honestly and not knowingly give them false information. In addition, Firm may show the same property to other buyers, represent other buyers, represent sellers relative to other properties, or provide assistance to a seller or prospective seller by performing ministerial acts that are not inconsistent with Firm's duties under this Agreement.

Upon closing of any sale of property not entered in a listing service of which Firm is a member, Buyer authorizes Firm to submit pertinent information concerning the property, including sales price, to such listing service.

7. **DISCLOSURE OF BUYER'S NAME/MAILING ADDRESS.**

- (a) Unless otherwise stated in Paragraph 13 below, Firm has Buyer's permission to disclose Buyer's name.
- (b) In accordance with NC General Statutes Section 93A-12, if a dispute regarding the return or forfeiture of any earnest money deposit arises between Buyer and the seller of any real property Buyer may agree to purchase, the escrow agent holding the deposit may deposit the disputed monies with the appropriate Clerk of Court following written notice to the parties. In the event of any such dispute, Buyer directs Firm to disclose Buyer's last known mailing address to the escrow agent upon request to enable the escrow agent to comply with the notice requirement of such law.

8. **NON DISCRIMINATION. THE AGENT (FIRM) SHALL CONDUCT ALL BROKERAGE ACTIVITIES IN REGARD TO THIS AGREEMENT WITHOUT RESPECT TO THE RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, HANDICAP OR FAMILIAL STATUS OF ANY PARTY OR PROSPECTIVE PARTY TO THE AGREEMENT. FURTHER, REALTORS® HAVE AN ETHICAL DUTY TO CONDUCT SUCH ACTIVITIES WITHOUT RESPECT TO THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY OF ANY PARTY OR PROSPECTIVE PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT.**

9. **BUYER'S DUTIES.** Buyer agrees to cooperate with Firm in the acquisition of real property of the type described in paragraph 1, including but not limited to:

- (a) working exclusively with Firm during the term of this Agreement;

Buyer initials _____ Individual agent initials _____

- (b) immediately referring to Firm information about any properties Buyer may have an interest in examining;
- (c) complying with the reasonable requests of Firm to supply any pertinent financial or personal data needed to fulfill the terms of this Agreement;
- (d) being available for reasonable periods of time to examine properties;
- (e) examining properties only by appointments made by or through Firm and accompanied by an agent of Firm;
- (f) conducting all negotiations and communications through Firm;
- (g) conducting all due diligence on property in consultation with Firm; and
- (h) paying for all products and/or services required in the examination and evaluation of properties (examples: surveys, water/soil tests, title reports, property inspections, etc.).

10. **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVICE.** In addition to the services rendered to Buyer by the Firm under the terms of this Agreement, Buyer is advised to seek other professional advice in matters of law, taxation, financing, insurance, surveying, wood-destroying insect infestation, structural soundness, engineering, building construction, and other matters pertaining to any proposed transaction. Although Firm may provide Buyer the names of providers who claim to perform such services, Buyer understands that Firm cannot guarantee the quality of service or level of expertise of any such provider. Buyer agrees to pay the full amount due for all services directly to the service provider whether or not the transaction closes. Buyer also agrees to indemnify and hold Firm harmless from and against any and all liability, claim, loss, damage, suit, or expense that Firm may incur either as a result of Buyer's selection and use of any such provider or Buyer's election not to have one or more of such services performed.

- Buyer acknowledges receipt of a sample copy of an Offer to Purchase And Contract for review purposes.
- Buyer acknowledges receipt of a copy of the brochure *Questions and Answers on: Home Inspections*.
- Buyer acknowledges receipt of a sample copy of a Professional Services Disclosure and Election form (form #760) for review purposes.

11. **HOME WARRANTY.** The seller of any property Buyer may be interested in buying may or may not provide a home warranty as a part of any sale. If the seller does not provide a home warranty, Buyer may elect to purchase one. Buyer understands that although Firm will assist Buyer in identifying available home warranty products, Buyer must refer specific questions regarding coverage afforded by any such product to the provider thereof. If Firm assists Buyer in obtaining a home warranty, a fee of N/A will be offered to Firm by the person or entity through or from which any home warranty is obtained as compensation to Firm for its assistance in obtaining the home warranty, and Buyer hereby consents to Firm's receipt of such fee.

12. **CONFIDENTIALITY OF OFFERS.** Real estate brokers are prohibited by N.C. Real Estate Commission rule from disclosing the price or other material terms contained in a party's offer to purchase, sell, lease, rent or option real property to a competing party without the express authority of the party making the offer. However, sellers may elect not to treat the existence, terms, or conditions of any offers Buyer may make as confidential. Additionally, sellers may elect not to disclose or authorize seller's agent to disclose the existence of any other offer(s).

13. **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.** N/A

14. **DUAL AGENCY.** Buyer understands that the potential for dual agency will arise if Buyer becomes interested in viewing property listed with Firm. Firm may represent more than one party in the same transaction only with the knowledge and informed consent of all parties for whom Firm acts.

- (a) **Disclosure of Information.** In the event Firm serves as a dual agent, Buyer agrees that without permission from the party about whom the information pertains, Firm shall not disclose to the other party the following information:
 - (1) that a party may agree to a price, terms, or any conditions of sale other than those offered;
 - (2) the motivation of a party for engaging in the transaction, unless disclosure is otherwise required by statute or rule; and
 - (3) any information about a party which that party has identified as confidential unless disclosure is otherwise required by statute or rule.

(b) **Firm's Role as Dual Agent.** If Firm serves as agent for both Buyer and a seller in a transaction, Firm shall make every reasonable effort to represent Buyer and seller in a balanced and fair manner. Firm shall also make every reasonable effort to encourage and effect communication and negotiation between Buyer and seller. Buyer understands and acknowledges that:

- (1) Prior to the time dual agency occurs, Firm will act as Buyer's exclusive agent;
- (2) In its separate representation of Buyer and seller, Firm may obtain information which, if disclosed, could harm the bargaining position of the party providing such information to Firm;

(3) Firm is required by law to disclose to Buyer and seller any known or reasonably ascertainable material facts.

Buyer agrees Firm shall not be liable to Buyer for (i) disclosing material facts required by law to be disclosed, and (ii) refusing or failing to disclose other information the law does not require to be disclosed which could harm or compromise one party's bargaining position but could benefit the other party.

(c) **Buyer's Role.** Should Firm become a dual agent, Buyer understands and acknowledges that:

- (1) Buyer has the responsibility of making Buyer's own decisions as to what terms are to be included in any purchase and sale agreement with a seller client of Firm;
- (2) Buyer is fully aware of and understands the implications and consequences of Firm's dual agency role as expressed herein to provide balanced and fair representation of Buyer and seller and to encourage and effect communication between them rather than as an advocate or exclusive agent or representative;
- (3) Buyer has determined that the benefits of dual agency outweigh any disadvantages or adverse consequences;
- (4) Buyer may seek independent legal counsel to assist Buyer with the negotiation and preparation of a purchase and sale agreement or with any matter relating to the transaction which is the subject matter of a purchase and sale agreement.

Should Firm become a dual agent, Buyer waives all claims, damages, losses, expenses or liabilities, other than for violations of the North Carolina Real Estate License Law and intentional wrongful acts, arising from Firm's role as a dual agent. Buyer shall have a duty to protect Buyer's own interests and should read any purchase and sale agreement carefully to ensure that it accurately sets forth the terms which Buyer wants included in said agreement.

(d) **Authorization** (*initial only ONE*).

_____ Buyer authorizes the Firm to act as a dual agent, representing both the Buyer and the seller, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Paragraph 14.

_____ Buyer desires exclusive representation at all times during this agreement and does NOT authorize Firm to act in the capacity of dual agent. *If Buyer does not authorize Firm to act as a dual agent, the remainder of this paragraph shall not apply.*

(e) **Designated Agent Option** (*Initial only if applicable*).

_____ Buyer hereby authorizes the Firm to designate an individual agent(s) to represent the Buyer, to the exclusion of any other individual agents associated with the Firm. The individual designated agent(s) shall represent only the interests of the Buyer to the extent permitted by law.

NOTE: When dual agency arises, an individual agent shall not practice designated agency and shall remain a dual agent if the individual agent has actually received confidential information concerning a seller client of the Firm in connection with the transaction or if designated agency is otherwise prohibited by law.

(f) **Dual Agency Compensation.** If the Firm acts as a dual agent (including designated agency), the total fee the Firm expects to receive for its services in representing Buyer and the seller shall be 6% ReSale, 5-6% New, 6% REO, 6% Short Sale, 6% Unrepresented Seller, 6% Auction, 6-10% Land.

(Insert dollar amount, percentage of purchase price, or other method of determining Firm's compensation for each type of property such as resale, new construction and/or land/lot the Buyer may purchase.) THIS WILL IN NO WAY AFFECT OR MODIFY THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 4 ABOVE THAT FIRM EXPECTS TO RECEIVE FOR ITS SERVICES IN REPRESENTING BUYER UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. In the event Buyer is interested in purchasing a property where the Firm's total fee is different from that described in this subparagraph (f), the Firm shall timely disclose the fee to Buyer and confirm it in writing before Buyer makes or accepts an offer to buy or sell any such property.

15. **MEDIATION.** If a dispute arises out of or related to this Agreement or the breach thereof, and if the dispute cannot be settled through negotiation, the parties agree first to try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation before resorting to arbitration, litigation, or some other dispute resolution procedure. If the need for mediation arises, the parties will choose a mutually acceptable mediator and will share the cost of mediation equally.

16. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT/CHANGES/TERMINATION.** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between Buyer and Firm relating to the subject thereof, and any prior agreements pertaining thereto, whether oral or written, have been merged and integrated into this Agreement. This Agreement may be signed in multiple originals or counterparts, all of which together constitute one and the same instrument. No modification of any of the terms of this Agreement shall be valid, binding upon the parties, or entitled to enforcement unless such modification has first been reduced to writing and signed by both Buyer and Firm. Buyer acknowledges

and understands that this Agreement constitutes a binding contract between Buyer and Firm. Although Buyer may at any time withdraw from the fiduciary relationship existing between Buyer and Firm, the contract created by this Agreement may not be terminated by Buyer or Firm prior to its Expiration Date without legally sufficient cause. Any such termination shall be by mutually-acceptable written agreement signed by both Buyer and Firm.

NOTE: Buyer should consult with Firm before visiting any resale or new homes or contacting any other real estate firm representing sellers, to avoid the possibility of confusion over the brokerage relationship and misunderstandings about liability for compensation.

17. **SURVEILLANCE:** Buyer is advised to be mindful of the fact that there could be video/audio/surveillance device(s) located on any property examined by Buyer and that Buyer or Buyer's representatives may be under surveillance during any such examination. Federal and State laws prohibit the interception of an oral communication through the use of any electronic, mechanical, or other device, whether or not recorded, without the consent of a party to that communication. However, video surveillance without consent is not illegal.

18. **PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO:** Unless a property owner has notified the public that photography and video recording is prohibited, it is permissible to photograph or video the interior of private property since the owner's permission to enter the property implies permission to do so. However, under no circumstances may Buyer take photographs or videos that intrude on a property owner's reasonable expectations of privacy.

Buyer should only photograph or video things that are in "plain view". For example, taking a photo or video of the contents of a medicine cabinet or of financial records in a desk drawer would be impermissible. In addition, any permitted photography or video should be used only in a manner related directly to Buyer's examination and purchase of a property. **TAKING IMPERMISSIBLE PHOTOGRAPHS OR VIDEOS OR USING THEM FOR AN IMPERMISSIBLE PURPOSE COULD SUBJECT BUYER TO CIVIL LIABILITY.**

Buyer acknowledges and understands that neither Firm nor its agents have control over information about any property Buyer may purchase that has been placed on the Internet in connection with the marketing of any such property for sale, whether by or through a listing service or otherwise, including but not limited to photographs, and that any such information will not be removed following Buyer's purchase of any such property.

19. **WIRE FRAUD WARNING:**

BEFORE SENDING ANY WIRE, BUYER SHOULD CALL THE CLOSING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO VERIFY THE INSTRUCTIONS. IF BUYER RECEIVES WIRING INSTRUCTIONS FOR A DIFFERENT BANK, BRANCH LOCATION, ACCOUNT NAME OR ACCOUNT NUMBER, THEY SHOULD BE PRESUMED FRAUDULENT. DO NOT SEND ANY FUNDS AND CONTACT THE CLOSING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

BUYER SHOULD CALL THE CLOSING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AT A NUMBER THAT IS INDEPENDENTLY OBTAINED. TO ENSURE THAT THE CONTACT IS LEGITIMATE, BUYER SHOULD NOT RELY ON A PHONE NUMBER IN AN EMAIL FROM THE CLOSING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, BUYER'S REAL ESTATE AGENT OR ANYONE ELSE.

Buyer acknowledges and understands that there are risks associated with wire transfers that are not within the reasonable control of Firm, and Buyer hereby agrees to release and discharge Firm and Firm's agents from any and all claims, demands, rights and causes of action of whatsoever kind and nature not caused by gross negligence of Firm or Firm's agents arising directly or indirectly out of any wire transfer Buyer sends or receives/was to receive in connection with any real estate transaction in which Firm represents buyer.

