

Department of Commerce
Professional Licensing Bureau
FILED 3-2-23 (Date)
IREC
Board / Commission
[Signature]
Signature, Executive Officer

BEFORE THE IOWA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION
200 EAST GRAND, SUITE 350
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

IN RE:)	
)	CASE NUMBER: 22-300
Darren J. Flater)	
Salesperson (S67242000))	COMBINED STATEMENT OF
)	CHARGES, INFORMAL
EPM Iowa, LLC)	SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT,
2501 Falls Avenue)	AND CONSENT ORDER IN A
Waterloo, IA 50701)	DISCIPLINARY CASE
)	
RESPONDENT)	

The Iowa Real Estate Commission (Commission) and **Darren J. Flater** (Respondent) enter into this Combined Statement of Charges, Informal Settlement Agreement, and Consent Order in a Disciplinary Case (Order) pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 17A.10(1) and 272C.3(4) (2022).

1. The Commission issued the Respondent real estate salesperson license number S67242000 on March 18, 2019. Respondent's license is current and in full force and effect through December 31, 2024. At all times relevant to this matter, the Respondent was a licensed salesperson assigned to EPM Iowa, LLC, a licensed real estate firm, license number F05938000, located in Waterloo, Iowa.

2. The Commission has jurisdiction of this disciplinary matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C, and 543B (2021). Licenses issued by the Commission are subject to the laws of the State of Iowa and to the administrative rules of the Commission.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

COUNT I

3. Respondent is charged with submitting, or causing to be submitted; whether intentional or otherwise, incorrect information on a renewal application and failing to comply with continuing education requirements in violation of Iowa Code sections 272C.10(1), 543B.15(5), 543B.29(1)(b), 543B.34(1)(k) (2021). See 193E Iowa Administrative Code sections 4.4(1), 4.5(2)(c), 16.4(2), 16.5(2), 16.5(4), 18.2(5), 18.14(5)(s).

CIRCUMSTANCES

4. On January 3, 2022, the Respondent submitted his on-line renewal application for an Iowa real estate salesperson license to be placed on active status. On the renewal, the Respondent attested that he had completed the required thirty-six hours (36) of continuing education required by 193E Iowa Administrative Rule § 16.4(2).

5. On October 11, 2022, the Respondent was chosen for a random audit by the Commission for compliance with the continuing education requirements for his 2021 real estate license renewal.

6. Results of the continuing education audit revealed the Respondent included as part of his renewal, four (4) hour "Ethics: Acting with Integrity" course completed November 28, 2022. The course was completed after submission of the Respondent's renewal application dated January 3, 2022 and outside of the three (3) year renewal period of 2019, 2020, and/or 2021.

7. Accurate and truthful attestation of one's continuing education history is essential to the Commission's determination of whether an applicant meets all requirements for renewing an Iowa real estate salesperson license. See Iowa Code § 543.15(5) (2022). The Respondent's failure to accurately report his continuing education history as attested on his Iowa real estate salesperson license renewal application constituted a false statement of material fact.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

8. Without admission of wrongdoing or guilt, the Respondent does not contest the violations alleged in the above-stated Statement of Charges. This case shall constitute one violation for purposes of Iowa Code section 543B.29(4) (2022).

9. Respondent acknowledges that he has a right to receive notice of the above-stated charges and to request a hearing before the Commission on the merits of the charges. By freely and voluntarily entering into this Order, the Respondent waives his right to notice and a hearing and all attendant rights, including the right to seek judicial review. This Order constitutes discipline against the Respondent, and is the final agency order in this contested case pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.10 and 193 Iowa Administrative Code 7.4.

10. Respondent agrees that the State's attorney and/or Commission staff may present this Order to the Commission and may have *ex parte* communications with the Commission while presenting it. Respondent waives any right of notice of this meeting or any right that the Respondent might have to participate in the discussion of this Order among the Commission, the Commission staff and the State's attorney.

11. This Order shall be part of the permanent record of Respondent and shall be considered by the Commission in determining the nature and severity of any future disciplinary action to

be imposed in the event of any future violations of the laws and rules governing the practice of real estate by the Respondent.

12. Failure to comply with the terms of this Order shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of Iowa Code sections 543B.29(1)(d), 543B.34(1) and 272C.3(2)(a) (2022) and shall be grounds for further disciplinary action. However, no action may be taken against the Respondent for violations of this Order without a hearing, or waiver of hearing.

13. This Order is not binding on the Iowa Real Estate Commission until it has been formally approved by a majority of the Commission members.

(a) In the event that this Order is rejected by the Commission it shall be of no force or effect to either party and it shall not be admissible for any purpose in further proceedings in this matter.

(b) If the Commission approves this Order, it shall fully dispose of all issues in this case.

14. Upon acceptance by both the Commission and Respondent, this Combined Statement of Charges, Informal Settlement Agreement and Consent Order shall be a public record available for inspection and copying in its entirety in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 22 (2022).

CONSENT ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

15. CIVIL PENALTY. The Respondent shall pay a civil penalty to the Commission in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) no later than thirty (30) days after acceptance of this Order by the Commission. The civil penalty must come under a cover letter addressed to the Commission's Executive Officer, referencing Case Number 22-300.

16. FUTURE COMPLIANCE. The Respondent shall at all future times fully and promptly comply with all pertinent Orders of the Commission and the statutes and Commission rules regulating the practice of real estate.

WHEREFORE, the terms of this Combined Statement of Charges, Informal Settlement Agreement and Consent Order are agreed to and accepted by the Iowa Real Estate Commission and the Respondent.

FOR THE RESPONDENT:

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by Darren J. Flater on this 14 day of February, 2023.

Darren J. Flater
By: DARREN J. FLATER, Respondent

State of Iowa

County of Black Hawk

Signed and sworn to before me on this 14 day of February, 2023, by:



Chelse Blockhus
Notary Public, State of Iowa
Printed Name: Chelse Blockhus
My Commission Expires: 8/10/2025

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by the IOWA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION on this _____ day of _____, 2023.

James M.H. Clingman
JAMES M.H. CLINGMAN, Chair
Iowa Real Estate Commission