

Department of Commerce  
Professional Licensing Bureau  
**FILED 6-8-23 (Date)**  
**IREC**  
Board / Commission  
*Renee Paul*  
Signature, Executive Officer

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

---

IN RE:	)	
	)	CASE NUMBER: 23-117
Karen Sterk	)	
Salesperson (S57841000)	)	COMBINED STATEMENT OF
	)	CHARGES, INFORMAL
Ari Realty, Inc.	)	SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT,
5177 320 <sup>th</sup> St.	)	AND CONSENT ORDER IN A
Sheldon, IA 51201	)	DISCIPLINARY CASE
	)	
RESPONDENT	)	

---

The Iowa Real Estate Commission (Commission) and **Karen Sterk** (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).

1. The Commission issued the Respondent real estate salesperson license number S57841000 on August 10, 2006. Respondent's license is current and in full force and effect through December 31, 2023. At all times relevant to this matter, the Respondent was a licensed real estate salesperson assigned to Ari Realty, Inc., a licensed real estate firm, license number F04050000, located in Sheldon, Iowa.

2. The Commission has jurisdiction of this disciplinary matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C, and 543B. 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. The Respondent is charged with failing to comply with the mandatory errors and omissions insurance requirement for her Iowa real estate salesperson license in violation of Iowa Code sections 543B.29(1)(j), 543B.47(1), 543B.47(6) and 193E Iowa Administrative Code sections 18.2(5), 18.14(5)(s), 19.6(5), 19.6(6).

##### CIRCUMSTANCES

4. On April 5, 2023, the Respondent's broker was sent a random audit by the Commission for compliance with the mandatory errors and omissions insurance requirement.

5. The Respondent failed to maintain uninterrupted errors and omission while she was actively licensed and could therefore not provide proof of insurance coverage to the Commission for the time period of January 1, 2023 to April 24, 2023.

#### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

6. 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).

7. Respondent acknowledges that she 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 her 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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) 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.

11. 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.

IREC Case No. 23-117  
Karen Sterk

12. 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.

**CONSENT ORDER**

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

13. CIVIL PENALTY. The Respondent shall pay a civil penalty to the Commission in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) no later than six (6) months 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 23-117.

14. 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:**

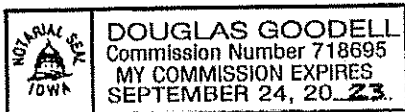
Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by Karen Sterk on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

Karen Sterk  
By: Karen Sterk, Respondent

State of Iowa

County of Dickinson

Signed and sworn to before me on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023, by:

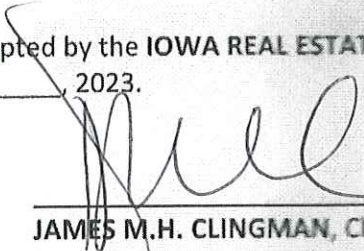


Douglas Goodell  
Notary Public, State of Iowa  
Printed Name: Douglas Goodell  
My Commission Expires: 9-24-2023

IREC Case No. 23-117  
Karen Sterk

**FOR THE COMMISSION:**

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by the IOWA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION on this  
8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.



---

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