



- (b) Failing to accurately maintain a general ledger to record in chronological order all receipts and disbursements for the Respondent's trust account. See 193E Iowa Administrative Code §§ 13.1(6)(a), 18.14(5)(e)(1).
- (c) Failing to accurately maintain the running balance of all individual ledger accounts for the Respondent's trust account. See 193E Iowa Administrative Code §§ 13.1(6)(b), 18.14(5)(e)(2).
- (d) Failing to provide a means for a monthly reconciliation of the Respondent's trust account to ensure agreement of the general ledger balance, reconciled bank balance and individual ledger accounts. See 193E Iowa Administrative Code §§ 13.1(6)(a)(3), 18.14(5)(e), 18.14(5)(f).
- (e) Failing to ensure that sufficient funds are in the trust account to cover all outstanding obligations due and owing from the account. See 193E Iowa Administrative Code §§ 13.1(1)(c).

#### CIRCUMSTANCES

4. The Respondent is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable rules and regulations governing the firm's operations in the state of Iowa, including maintenance of the trust account used by the firm.

5. On or about October 10, 2018 and October 12, 2018, an offsite examination of the Respondent's Iowa real estate trust account and transaction records was conducted by the Commission auditor (auditor).

6. The auditor found that the Respondent is failing to properly maintain accurate accounting of the general ledger balance for the Respondent's Iowa real estate trust account.

7. The auditor found that for the Respondent's Iowa real estate trust account, there is a failure to properly maintain accurate accounting for its individual ledger accounts. The broker was not tracking broker's equity or interest.

8. The auditor found that for the Respondent's Iowa real estate trust account, there is not an accurate monthly reconciliation being performed to ensure agreement of the general ledger balance, reconciled bank balance, and sum of the individual ledgers.

9. For the month-end September 30, 2018 bank statement, the auditor was not able to perform an accurate reconciliation due to the Respondent's failure to maintain the general ledger, failure to maintain the individual ledgers, and failure to perform accurate monthly reconciliations for the Iowa real estate trust account.

10. The auditor found that for an unknown period of time, the Respondent had a shortage in the Iowa real estate trust account due to bank changes in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

11. The Respondent rectified the deficiency by depositing \$500 in the Iowa trust account on October 12, 2018.

### **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

12. Respondent admits each and every allegation in the above-stated Statement of Charges. This case shall constitute one violation for purposes of Iowa Code section 543B.29(4).

13. Respondent acknowledges that it 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 its 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. Upon acceptance by both the Commission and Respondent, this Combined Statement of Charges, Informal Settlement 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:**

19. REPRIMAND. Pursuant to 193E Iowa Administrative Code section 18.14(1)(j), the Respondent is reprimanded.


20. CIVIL PENALTY. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty to the Commission in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) 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 18-216.

21. FUTURE COMPLIANCE. The Respondent also 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 **River Cities Realtors, Inc.** on this 31 day of May, 2023.

  
By: **Cathryn McNamara Sommers**, Broker For Respondent

State of Iowa  
County of Scott

Signed and sworn to before me on this 31 day of May, 2023, by:



[Signature]  
Notary Public, State of Iowa  
Printed Name: Jay Sommers  
My Commission Expires: 4/19/2025

**FOR THE COMMISSION:**

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by the **IOWA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION** on this 3rd day of August, 2023.

[Signature]  
**JAMES M.H. CLINGMAN**, Chair  
Iowa-Real Estate Commission