

**BEFORE THE IOWA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION  
1920 SE HULSIZER  
ANKENY, IOWA**

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| <b>IN RE:</b>                              | ) |                               |
|  | ) | <b>CASE NUMBER: 06-095</b>    |
| <b>Scott M. Steffes</b>                    | ) |                               |
| <b>Salesperson (S56094)</b>                | ) |                               |
|  | ) | <b>COMBINED STATEMENT OF</b>  |
| <b>Prudential Partners Real Estate</b>     | ) | <b>CHARGES, INFORMAL</b>      |
| <b>250-12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ste 150</b> | ) | <b>SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT,</b>  |
| <b>Coralville, IA. 52241</b>               | ) | <b>AND CONSENT ORDER IN A</b> |
|  | ) | <b>DISCIPLINARY CASE</b>      |
| <b>Respondent.</b>                         | ) |                               |

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The Iowa Real Estate Commission (Commission) and **Scott M. Steffes** (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) (2005).

1. The Commission issued the Respondent real estate salesperson license number S56094 on March 21, 2005. Respondent's license is current and in full force and effect through December 31, 2007. At all times relevant to this matter, the Respondent was a licensed real estate salesperson, assigned to Re/Max Affiliates, a licensed real estate trade name, license number (T04823) in Coralville, Iowa.

2. The Commission has jurisdiction of this disciplinary matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C, and 543B (2005). 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 engaging in a practice harmful or detrimental to the public by renting or leasing real estate without first obtaining a written property management agreement, in violation of Iowa Code sections 543B.29(3), 543B.34, 543B.56, and 193E Iowa Administrative Code section 15.1.

CIRCUMSTANCES

4. Respondent assisted the owner of residential property located in Iowa City, Iowa, by arranging the lease of the property. At the time of the agreement, the Respondent did not have a written property management agreement or other written authorization from the property owner.

COUNT II

5. Respondent is charged with engaging in a practice harmful or detrimental to the public by failing to deposit earnest monies associated with a transaction into the brokers trust account in violation of Iowa Code sections 543B.29(3), 543B.34(7), 543B.46, and 193E Iowa Administrative Code sections 13.1(1) and 18.14(5)(f)(1).

CIRCUMSTANCES

6. Respondent, while acting as the seller's agent for the sale of two properties located in North Liberty, Iowa, failed to deposit earnest monies associated with the transactions into his broker's trust account, but rather diverted said funds to the trust account of the seller's attorney without express written consent from all required persons.

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

7. Respondent admits each and every allegation in the above-stated Statement of Charges.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Failure to comply with the terms of this Order shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of Iowa Code sections 543B.29(3), 543B.34(2) and 272C.3(2)(a) (2005) 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.

12. 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.

13. 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 (2005).

### **CONSENT ORDER**

#### **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

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

15. **CIVIL PENALTY.** The Respondent shall pay a civil penalty to the Commission in the amount of \$500 no later than 30 calendar 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 and refer to case 06-095.

16. **EDUCATION.** The Respondent shall attend the Commission approved eight (8) hour course "Contract Law and Contract Writing." These hours shall be in addition to any real estate continuing education required by law for license renewal. The original certificate of attendance must be submitted to the Iowa Real Estate Commission within twelve (12) months of the signing of this Agreement by the Commission and must come under a cover letter addressed to the Commission's Executive Officer and refer to case 06-095.

17. **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 Scott M. Steffes on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2007.

[Redacted Signature]

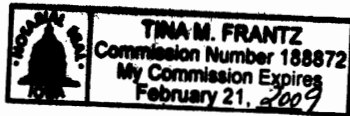
SCOTT M. STEFFES, Respondent

State of IOWA

County of Johnson

Signed and sworn to before me on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2007, by

[Redacted Name]



Notary Public, State of Iowa  
Printed Name: Tina M. Frantz  
My Commission Expires: Feb 21, 2009

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by the IOWA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2007.

[Redacted Signature]

JAMES E. HUGHES, Chair  
Iowa Real Estate Commission