

CHAPTER 5-003.15 - WITHHOLDING EARNEST MONEY

| VIOLATION | COMPLAINT | DATE OF ORDER | PENALTY |
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| Section 81-885.24(28) Demonstration of unworthiness and incompetence; Rules 6(3)(h)-(k); 81-885.21(1) and (6) in violation of prescribed procedure for accountability of earnest deposits, etc. | 77-006 - Commission vs. Grubaugh Bros., Richard H. Grubaugh and Marvin J. Grubaugh | May 27, 1977 | Each Respondent's Broker's license suspended for 60 days. |
| Violated Neb. Rev. Stat. § 76-2422(4) Before engaging in any of the activities enumerated in subdivision (2) of section 81-885.01, a designated broker intending to act as a dual agent shall obtain the written consent of the seller and buyer or landlord and tenant permitting the designated broker to serve as a dual agent. The consent shall include a licensee's duties and responsibilities specified in section 76-2419. The requirements of this subsection are met as to a seller or landlord if the written agreement entered into with the seller or landlord complies with this subsection. The requirements of this subsection are met as to a buyer or tenant if a consent or buyer's or tenant's agency agreement is signed by a potential buyer or tenant which complies with this subsection. The consent of the buyer or tenant does not need to refer to a specific property and may refer generally to all properties for which the buyer's or tenant's agent may also be acting as a seller's or landlord's agent and would be a dual agent. If a licensee is acting as a dual agent with regard to a specific property, the seller and buyer or landlord and tenant shall confirm in writing the dual-agency status and the party or parties responsible for paying any compensation prior to or at the time a contract to purchase a property or a lease or letter of intent to lease is entered into for the specific property, by failing to disclose in writing brokerage services, to have clients sign an Agency Disclosure and to note the refusal of an individual to sign an Agency Disclosure; Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-885.01(2) Broker means any person who, for any form of compensation or consideration or with the intent or expectation of receiving the same from another, negotiates or attempts to negotiate the listing, sale, purchase, exchange, rent, lease, or option for any real estate or improvements thereon, or assists in procuring prospects or | 2014-013 – Commission vs. Jane Hartman Heimboch | June 25, 2014 | Stipulation and Consent Order entered June 25, 2014. License revoked. |

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| <p>holds himself or herself out as a referral agent for the purpose of securing prospects for the listing, sale, purchase, exchange, renting, leasing, or optioning of any real estate or collects rents or attempts to collect rents, gives a broker's price opinion or comparative market analysis, or holds himself or herself out as engaged in any of the foregoing. Broker also includes any person: (a) Employed, by or on behalf of the owner or owners of lots or other parcels of real estate, for any form of compensation or consideration to sell such real estate or any part thereof in lots or parcels or make other disposition thereof; (b) who auctions, offers, attempts, or agrees to auction real estate; or (c) who buys or offers to buy or sell or otherwise deals in options to buy real estate, by failing to disclose in writing brokerage services, to have clients sign an Agency Disclosure and to note the refusal of an individual to sign an Agency Disclosure; Neb. Rev. stat. § 81-885.24(16) Violating any provision of sections 76-2401 to 76-2430; by failing to disclose in writing brokerage services, to have clients sign an Agency Disclosure and to note the refusal of an individual to sign an Agency Disclosure; Neb. Rev. State § 76-2421(1) At the earliest practicable opportunity during or following the first substantial contact with a seller, landlord, buyer, or tenant who has not entered into a written agreement for brokerage services with a designated broker, the licensee who is offering brokerage services to that person or who is providing brokerage services for that property shall: (a) Provide that person with a written copy of the current brokerage disclosure pamphlet which has been prepared and approved by the commission; and (b) Disclose in writing to that person the types of brokerage relationships the designated broker and affiliated licensees are offering to that person or disclose in writing to that person which party the licensee is representing, by failing to disclose in writing brokerage services, to have clients sign an Agency Disclosure and to note that an individual refused to sign an Agency Disclosure; Neb. Rev. State § 81-885.24(3) Failing to account for and remit any money coming into his or her possession belonging to others by failing to timely deposit or remit earnest monies, failed to keep separate earnest money from clients and to account for</p> | <p>2014-013 – Commission vs. Jane Hartman Heimboch</p> | | |

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| <p>money belonging to others with respect to irrigation payments or utility charges; Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-885.24(4) Commingling the money or other property of his or her principals with his or her own, by failing to timely deposit or remit earnest monies, also failed to keep separate earnest money from clients and to account for money belonging to others with respect to irrigation payments or utility charges; Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-885.24(24) Failing by an associate broker or salesperson to place, as soon after receipt as practicable, in the custody of his or her employing broker any deposit money or other money or funds entrusted to him or her by any person dealing with him or her as the representative of his or her licensed broker, by failing to timely deposit or remit earnest monies, to keep separate earnest money from clients and to account for money belonging to others with respect to irrigation payments or utility charges; Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-885.24(26) Violating any rule or regulation adopted and promulgated by the commission in the interest of the public and consistent with the Nebraska Real Estate License Act; by failing to timely deposit or remit earnest monies, to keep separate earnest money from clients and to account for money belonging to others with respect to irrigation payments or utility charges; Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-885.24(29) Demonstrating negligence, incompetency, or unworthiness to act as a broker, associate broker, or salesperson, whether of the same or of a different character as otherwise specified in this section, by failing to timely deposit or remit earnest monies, to keep separate earnest money from clients, to account for money belonging to others with respect to irrigation payments or utility charges, to deliver a written copy of offers and/or purchase agreements and to protect interests of her clients. Heimbouch also failed to truthfully and timely inform her clients of the status of transactions concerning their properties and to competently complete paperwork; 299 NAC 3-005 Earnest money deposits and other deposits relating to the sale of real estate shall be kept in a separately identified trust account and all other trust funds may be deposited in another separately identified trust account, by failing to timely deposit or remit earnest monies, to keep separate and/or</p> | <p>2014-013 – Commission vs. Jane Hartman Heimbouch</p> | | |

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| <p>commingling earnest money received from clients, to account for money belonging to others with respect to irrigation payments or utility charges, to deliver a written copy of offers and/or purchase agreements and failed to protect the interests of her clients; 299 NAC 5-003.14 Failure to deposit any funds received as an earnest money deposit within 72 hours or before the end of the next banking day, after an offer is accepted, in writing, unless otherwise provided in the purchase agreement. In the event an offer is not accepted, said earnest money deposit shall be returned forthwith, by failing to timely deposit or remit earnest monies, to keep separate earnest money from clients and to account for money belonging to others with respect to irrigation payments or utility charges; 299 NAC 5-003.15 Withholding earnest money when the purchaser or seller is rightfully entitled to the money; provided, a broker may retain funds to cover expenses he or she has prepaid for a purchaser or seller from the broker's funds, by failing to timely deposit or remit earnest monies, to keep separate earnest money from clients, and to account for money belonging to others with respect to irrigation payments or utility charges; Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-885.24(20) Failing to deliver within a reasonable time a completed and dated copy of any purchase agreement or offer to buy or sell real estate to the purchaser and to the seller, by failing to deliver a written copy of the offer and/ or purchase agreements; 299 NAC 5-003.18 Failure to reduce an offer to writing where a prospective purchaser requests such offer be submitted when the licensee is: the limited seller's agent for the property; the prospective purchaser's limited buyer's agent; or the dual agent of the seller and the prospective purchaser, by failing to deliver a written copy of offers and/or purchase agreements; Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-885.24(22) Making any substantial misrepresentations, by advising clients of offers without the necessary documents and also disclosing personal information about possible clients.</p> | <p>2014-013 – Commission vs. Jane Hartman Heimboach</p> | | |
