

239.597.1666 239.597.7725 fax www.NABOR.com www.NaplesArea.com 1455 Pine Ridge Road Naples, FL 34109

Your Leading Resource for Business.

To Whom It May Concern:

REALTOR[®] is a registered collective membership mark, which may be used only by real estate professionals who are members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS[®] and subscribe to its strict Code of Ethics.

Any person, whether a member or not, having reason to believe that a REALTOR[®] is guilty of a violation of the <u>REALTOR® Code of Ethics</u>, may <u>file a complaint</u> to the Naples Area Board of REALTORS[®] ("NABOR"). Ethics complaints must be filed within one hundred eighty (180) days after the facts constituting the matter complained of could have been known in the exercise of reasonable diligence or within one hundred eighty (180) days after the conclusion of the transaction, whichever is later.

In formulating your complaint, please follow the instructions below:

- Complete, sign, and date the <u>Ethics Complaint Form</u>.
- □ Refer to a specific Article(s) of the Code of Ethics so that NABOR's Grievance Committee can determine whether sufficient evidence exists to warrant the holding of a Professional Standards Hearing.
- Attach a written summary of what transpired to make you feel an ethics violation occurred.
- Include any documentation, such as copies of listing(s)/sales contract(s), lease agreements, correspondence and/or any pertinent material that would help the Grievance Committee make their decision.
- Number the pages
- **DO NOT** use staples, office index tabs, professional binding, 3-ring binders, 2-sided copies, or the like when formulating complaint.
- Black and white and/or color copies are acceptable.
- Email (<u>Corie@NABOR.com</u>) or by U.S. Mail Certified Return Receipt is recommended if you wish confirmation of receipt.

Further, **and this is important**, when a REALTOR[®] is charged with a violation of the Code of Ethics, the complaining party **may not** recover damages, either actual or punitive, nor can a REALTOR[®]'s license with the State of Florida be suspended or terminated. Should a REALTOR[®] be found guilty of violating of one or more Articles of the Code of Ethics, possible sanctions could include a Letter of Warning, a Letter of Reprimand, a fine up to \$15,000.00 payable to NABOR, required attendance at an educational seminar, probation, suspension from NABOR and/or expulsion from NABOR. NABOR is not empowered to force a REALTOR[®] to pay damages of any kind.

Once an ethics complaint is received by NABOR, it will be presented to the Grievance Committee for their review at the next available meeting. Following their review, you will be notified as to their actions. For a detailed summary of what happens before, during, and after an ethics complaint is filed please click <u>here</u>.

Important: You <u>must</u> be present for the hearing. The Hearing Panel will not make a decision solely on written material.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions.

Respectfully,

Lorie Chase

Corie Chase, C2EX, RCE Chief Administrative Officer