

REAL ESTATE LESSON 1

Chapter 2: The Mortgage Brokers Act & Professional Ethics

COURSE OUTLINE

I

* RESA

* Organizations in Real Estate Industry 2

- * BCFSA
- * Superintendent of

Real Estate

* Real Estate

Foundation

- * E&O
- * RE Compensation

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- * Voluntary Organizations:
- * CREA
- * BCREA
- * REIC
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- * REDMA
- * Licensing System
- * Categories of License

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- * Discipline and Enforcement
- * Discipline Process

The Registration System

Purpose: protecting the public **by** 3 Key Objectives:

- ensuring that mortgage brokers' services meet certain minimum requirements
- setting out certain standards to ensure that mortgage brokers and sub-mortgage brokers conduct themselves appropriately
- establishing a registrar to administer the Act, including the granting of registrations, investigating complaints, and providing for disciplinary powers in the case of a contravention of the Act or regulations, including the freezing of trust funds, suspension or cancellation of registration and other administrative penalties

1- Mortgage Broker

- A person who does any of the following:
- (a) Lending money as a mortgage (their own money or another person's money)
- (b) Advertise themselves as a mortgage broker
- (c) Buying and selling mortgages or agreements for sale
- (d) Earn \$1,000 or more in a year as a fee for arranging mortgages for others (arranging is the process of a borrower obtaining a mortgage from a lender)
- (e) Lending money on the security of 10 or more mortgages in a year
- (f) Collecting money secured by mortgages

Registration system for individuals involved in Mortgage brokerage activities

Key Registration Concepts in the Act

Two types of persons are required to register under the Mortgage Brokers Act:

- **1- Mortgage Brokers** (e.g. An individual, corporation, firm, partnership, association, syndicate or unincorporated organization)
- **2- Sub-mortgage Brokers** (e.g. only individuals may be registered as sub-mortgage brokers)

Mortgage Arranging Process

- offering mortgage lead generation services by gathering the names of potential borrowers
- taking mortgage applications to collect borrower data or gathering application information through any mediums
- explaining mortgage terms and options, or advice on websites to attract potential mortgage borrowers
- reviewing mortgage documentation, obtaining credit checks, providing mortgage advice on how to deal with mortgage proceeds or mortgage payments
- **no registration required** if an individual only provide the name of a mortgage broker or lender to a potential borrower, or the name of a borrower to a mortgage broker or lender, and compensate for the referral.

2- Sub-mortgage Broker

A sub-mortgage broker is an individual who meets all the educational requirements and can be registered and employed by a mortgage broker and does any or all of the things that a mortgage broker (which can be a company, partnership, etc.) does, and is employed by a mortgage broker. To protect the lenders and borrowers **mortgage transaction** won't collapse because <u>the mortgage broker has not registered</u> properly.

Offences and Penalties

- a person commits an offence if they are not registered under the Act and acts as a mortgage broker or a sub-mortgage broker
- the person is liable on a first conviction, for a fine of not more than \$100,000 or to imprisonment for not more than 2 years or to both
- if the person is a corporation, it is liable, on a first conviction to a fine of not more than \$100,000 and a fine of not more than \$200,000.

Exemptions Within The Regulations:

- Employees and directors of insurance companies, banks, credit unions, and trust companies
- A lawyer in the course of his or her practice as a lawyer
- Any person acting for the government or for an agency of the government
- A liquidator, receiver, and trustee in bankruptcy, or a person acting under the authority of any court or an executor or trustee acting under the terms of a will or marriage settlement while acting as mortgage broker or sub-mortgage broker under their proper name
- A person, or an employee of a person, directly or indirectly lending money on the security of land to provide housing for the person's employees
- Any other person or class of persons who are exempted by the Registrar

Unregistered Assistants

- unregistered assistants who employed by a mortgage broker, may not perform any of the essential functions of a "mortgage broker", defined in the Act, including:
- Cannot conduct certain marketing activities or solicit mortgage business from the public or other related industry members
- Cannot provide mortgage advice or information to, or review and explain certain documents, or negotiate fees or commissions with clients, potential clients, borrowers or lenders
- Cannot accept mortgage applications from borrowers or lenders
- Cannot communicate with lenders about borrower applications,

Introduction

<u>In 2004</u>, the provincial government introduced <u>two new statutes</u> that governed the sale of real estate in BC: the Real Estate Services Act (RESA), and Real Estate Development Marketing Act (REDMA).

RESA: Focused on <u>activities of real estate professionals</u> who provide trading services related to real estate, rental property management services, and strata management services.

REDMA: Focused on <u>activities of real estate developers</u> marketing various forms of real estate <u>developments</u> such as strata lots, cooperatives, and shared interests.

In 2016, the provincial government amended RESA and transferred the rule making powers from the primary regulators (Real Estate Council of BC (RECBC) and the Office of the Superintendent of Real Estate (OSRE) to a <u>dual regulator system between the OSRE and RECBC</u> to increase oversight of the real estate industry and enhance consumer protection ©2021 Bahar Nate All Rights Reserved

In **2021** RESA was amended once again to integrate RECBC and OSRE with the British Columbia Financial Services Authority (**BCFSA**).

The amendments added the regulation of real estate service to the scope of BCFSA's regulatory functions and the overall intention of these amendments to RESA was to create a **single**, modern, efficient and integrated regulator of British Columbia's financial services sector.

BCFSA sets and enforces standards of conduct under RESA and protects consumers from unlicensed real estate services activities.

5 Statutory Organizations:

- 1- British Columbia Financial Services Authority (BCFSA)
- 2- Office of Superintendent of Real Estate (OSRE)
- 3- Real Estate foundation of BC (REFBC)
- 4- Real Estate Errors and Omissions Insurance Corporation (E&O)
- 5- Real Estate Compensation Fund Corporation (RECFC)

(Membership to all of these Statutory Organizations is mandatory)

4 Voluntary Organizations

- 1- Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA)
- 2- **British Columbia** Real Estate Association and Local Boards (BCREA)
- 3- Real Estate Institute of Canada (REIC)
- 4- Real Estate Institute of British Columbia (REIBC)

1-BCFSA

(The Regulatory and Licensing Body)

BCFSA is a single crown regulatory agency in BC that has the regulatory responsibility over the British Columbia financial services sectors and possesses certain powers and **duties** under the RESA includes:

The main objective is to **protect the public** that standards of practice are provided by licensed real estate professionals, and are not being performed by <u>unlicensed persons</u>.

- -Licensing (issuing and renewing)
- -Education (required for licensing and supplementary education)
- -Disciplinary proceedings (hearing, redo education, suspend or cancel the license)
- -Real Estate Development Marketing
- -Mortgage brokers
- -BCFSA is also **responsible for**: Credit unions, The Credit Union Deposit Insurance, Corporations of BC, Pension Plans, Trust Companies, and Insurance Companies

2- Superintendent of Real Estate

- Superintendent is the **chief executive officer** of BCFSA
- Superintendent is appointed by BCFSA's Board of Directors
- Carry out <u>investigations</u> and disciplinary functions in relation to <u>licensees</u>, and <u>unlicensed</u> persons
- Is given the power to the position of: the Superintendent of Financial Institutions, Registrar of Mortgage Brokers, and other similar positions
- All licensing application must be made to Superintendent
- The standard form of <u>disclosure statement</u> is set out by **Superintendent** and contains the material fact (REDMA)

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3- Real Estate Foundation

- it is also called Real Estate Law Reform
- Made up of <u>5 members</u> of Board of Governors, for a period of 3 to maximum 6 years term
- Responsible to improve the profession of real estate
- Carry out activities, projects, and researches for public or real estate professional in relation to real estate services
- Funded from the interest earned on the trust accounts of brokerages

4- Real Estate Errors and Omissions Insurance Corporation (E&O)

- It is created as an affordable method of <u>protecting licensees</u>
 from <u>financial loss</u> due to error and omission
- Made up of <u>7 Directors</u> (1 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, the other 3s by the BCREA, and the other 3s by the first 4 appointed)
- funded by <u>Premiums</u> form part of the <u>licensee's fees</u>; failure to pay would result in <u>immediate suspension</u>
- <u>Compulsory</u> insurance program to <u>protect the public</u> against negligent acts

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Errors and Omissions Indemnity Plan:

- It is a condition of licensing and each licensee in any province must be insured under E & O Indemnity Plan
- Limits of Liability: E & O Insurance Corporation will pay all sum, up to a limit of \$1 million (the licensee will be liable to pay as a result of an error, omission or negligent act under RESA)
- **Defense Costs**: E & O Insurance Corporation will pay the <u>licensee's defense costs (up to \$1 million</u>) but they have the right to settle a claim <u>without the licensee's consent</u>
- **Deductible**: A \$2,000 deductible is payable by each licensee + \$2,000 by their managing broker (in total \$4,000) if the damages are paid but it is <u>refundable</u> if the claim was dismissed at a trial
- **Premium**: A \$350 annual premium per licensee(\$700 for the two year) and it is refundable if licensees surrenders their license during the first year
- Policy Territory: The coverage applies to all claims arising anywhere in Canadaes

Exemptions from (O & E) Coverage

- 1- <u>Acting</u> as an insurance agent/broker, builder, contractor, developer, mortgagee/lender, notary public, appraiser, or court appointed administrator.
- 2- Transaction with ownership interest
- 3- Commission or fees disputes
- 4- Bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death of any person
- 5- <u>Dishonesty</u>, fraudulent, criminal, or malicious acts or malicious omissions
- 6- Claims under the Human Rights Code
- 7- Residential Tenancy claims

5- Real Estate Compensation Fund Corporation

- Compensation will be paid to a person (client/customer) in relation to a real estate transaction for funds that were misappropriate, intentionally not paid by licensee or anyone else in the brokerage
- Made up of <u>5 member Board</u> appointed by **BCREA**
- Funded by <u>licensing fees</u>

Voluntary Organizations

(Membership to all of these Voluntary Organizations is optional)

Ethics

1- Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA)

- It is a national organization comprising of <u>licensees</u> and <u>real estate boards</u> across the <u>country</u>, and <u>provincial real estate associations</u>
- Represent members at the federal level
- Created the <u>REALTOR code of ethics</u> (It consists of <u>3 parts</u>: preamble (introduction and history); (a set of <u>professional rules</u> of conduct that must be adopted as the minimum standard by real estate boards.
- Stated that the REALTORS are <u>committed to provide professional services</u>, and Golden Rules (guideline for REALTORS); and standards of business practice with 29 articles)

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2- BC Real Estate Association and Local Boards (BCREA)

- Comprised of the <u>10 real estate local boards</u> and more than 23,000 REALTORS
 (REALTORS has an option to join one of these <u>boards</u>)
- REALTOR TradeMark
- Access to MLS (Multiple Listing Service; without membership, no access)
- Enforce ethics (REALTOR Code directly enforce by the Real Estate Local Boards)
- Providing extensive communications <u>network</u>, **standard forms**, <u>continuing</u>
 <u>education program</u> for required membership in a real estate board, and
 publishing <u>newsletters</u>)

3- Real Estate Institute of Canada (REIC)

- Providing <u>lifelong learning</u>, awarding <u>professional designations</u>"RI", providing <u>networking opportunities</u>, and <u>promoting real estate industry</u>

4- Real Estate Institute of BC (REIBC)

Comprised of members from a variety of sectors in RE Industry

- Responsible for <u>advanced education</u>
- Grant the Professional **designation** "RI" (one should <u>meet the</u> <u>educational and experience standards</u> for receiving this designation

REDMA (Real Estate Development Marketing Act)

Regulates the marketing of "development units" in BC

- To <u>protect buyers</u> from developers by requiring developers to <u>disclose all</u> material facts about development units to them.
- To enable the efficient and profitable operation development section to protect the <u>developers' benefits</u>.

Marketing Requirements

- In order to protect purchasers: developers must: Meet any preliminary approvals or requirements for the type of property, Assure the <u>purchaser's title</u>. Prepare and <u>file</u> a <u>disclosure statement to superintendent</u>, Deliver Disclosure statement to ensure that investors or purchasers have adequate information to make <u>informed</u> purchase/investment decisions.

Disclosure Statement

A document <u>prepared by the developer of a subdivision</u> to ensure that investors or purchasers have <u>adequate information</u> for their purchase. (The <u>standard</u> exact <u>form</u> of disclosure statement is set out by **Superintendent** and contains the material fact)

- A <u>copy</u> of Disclosure Statement, must be **provided** to <u>BCFSA</u> and to <u>purchasers</u>, and the <u>purchaser</u> should have an opportunity to read and give a <u>written acknowledgement</u> to the developer.
- A **new disclosure statement is required** if: identity of the <u>developer changes</u>, the **BCFSA** gives notice for a new disclosure statement to be filed, or the <u>court</u> appoints a <u>receiver or trustee</u> in bankruptcy over the development property.

Material Fact

A fact or a proposal which would affect a reasonable person's decision to buy
or sell a property. Anything which may affect or could reasonably be
expected to affect the value, price, or use of a unit or a development and
should be disclosed to the other party such as material change or latent
defects.

Typical Contents

Includes: information about the developer, general description of the development, strata information, voting rights, limited common property, bylaw, parking, budgets, insurance, any kind of restrictions such as rental restrictions, environmental issues, construction and warranties, approvals and finances.

Rescission Rights

In the law of contracts, a rescission right is a <u>unilateral unmaking</u>, <u>or undoing the contract</u> from the <u>beginning</u>. The **two types** contained are:

1- Seven Days Rescission Rights

- The purchaser may always rescind **within 7 days**, for any reason by serving a written notice to developer within 7 days after the later of:
- Date of contract
- Date of <u>developer receives written acknowledgement</u> with respect of reading the disclosure statement

2- Rescission Rights for Disclosure Statement Breaches

- Failure to deliver a disclosure statement (indefinite rescission rights, <u>even after title transferred</u> it is a breach of REDMA), so the purchase agreement would be unenforceable and purchaser may not complete the transaction and there is no right for developers to bring a lawsuit against the purchaser.
- Failure to deliver an <u>amendment</u> to disclosure statement, (any material changes must result in an amendment and should deliver to the purchaser) **only if:**
- An amendment should be reasonably relevant to the purchaser's decision to enter into the purchase agreement,
- Or it has been no more than one year since the title has been transferred. ©2021 Bahar Nate All Rights Reserved28

Real Estate Development Units: A development unit is defined in REDMA to a <u>subdivision lot</u>, bare land strata lot, strata lot, cooperative interest, timeshares interest, a <u>shared interest in land or leasehold unit</u> provided they are located in a development property.

Categories of **Development Property** under REDMA is defined a <u>5+ subdivision lots</u>, 5+ bare land strata lots, 2+ cooperative interest, 2+ shared interest in land or 5+ leasehold units located in a development property.

The developers can only **market the development units** when:

- Strata plan has been deposited in the LTO(Land title Office)
- The <u>building permit</u> has been issued by municipality or government authority.
- In terms of buying a development plan, <u>deposits</u> from buyers should be placed with a brokerage, lawyer, notary, ... as a trustee in a trust account and developers can access the money for construction expenses.

The Regulatory Framework for Licenses in BC (According to RESA)

- RESA references are included: Regulations, Rules and Bylaws

1- Regulation

Made by <u>Lieutenant governor</u> (province executive officer) to regulate <u>Fundamental</u> <u>aspects</u> of Real Estate <u>licensing</u> and <u>practice</u>. The regulations deal with different matters **including**:

- Exemptions from licensing
- Fees payable by licensees
- Trust account issues
- Disciplinary proceedings
- Administrative penalties
- Required standard terms in certain contracts

Exemptions Within The Regulations:

- <u>Employees</u> of developers, notaries, appraisers and property
 <u>inspectors</u>, auctioneers, <u>agents</u> of expropriation authorities,
 individuals to refer others to a licensee, accountants to purchase and
 sale of a business
- Principal's employee who works and provides real estate service for the <u>principal</u>
- Individuals involved in mining, oil and gas activities
- Government and governments corporations
- Collection agents for their own business

2- Rules

Created by BCFSA to regulate more of the day-to-day
 activities of licensees and respect licensing or regulating
 licensees in relation to the provision of real estate services.

3- Bylaws

 Created by BCFSA to regulate their <u>internal</u> <u>business and</u> <u>affairs</u>. The scope is anything it considers necessary for its business and affairs.

The **Rules** dealing with different matters including:

- <u>Licensing</u> (the term of the license is **2 years** and after that the licensee is subject to take some courses and renew the license)
- Regulating licensees
- -General <u>responsibilities</u> of <u>licensees</u>
- -Business practices
- -Relationships with principals and parties
- -Dealing with other <u>licensees and unlicensed</u> persons
- -Brokerage accounts and financial requirements
- -Brokerage records
- -Licensees' exemptions

Exemptions Within The Rules:

- A person does not require a license if selling his/her **own** property
- Rental property and strata management licensees on their
 own behalf in relation to their own property
- A licensee should always refer to **RESA** to ensure of all the exemptions

Licensing System

RESA prescribes <u>4 levels of licenses</u>:

Brokerage, Managing broker, Associate broker, and representative

The main purpose of **RESA** is to **protect the public** by ensuring that:

1- Establish minimum standards for licencing:

- Educational requirements
- Good reputation
- 19 years of age and older

2- Establish minimum standards of conduct:

- Once licenced what can you do, what must you do, what cannot you do

3- Appointed BCFSA as a single regulator and empowered the OSRE (from and within BCFSA) to perform key regulatory functions under RESA.

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Activities Requiring a License under RESA

Only persons who <u>have the Real Estate License</u> or <u>Exempt</u> from the license can provide a real estate service <u>with expectation of remuneration</u>.

To start a job as a licensee, a person needs to acquire one of these licenses:

- -Rental Property Management (Collecting rents, security deposits, managing real estate on behalf of the owner, ...)
- -Strata Management Services (Collecting/ holding strata fees, contributions, levies,.., exercising delegated powers and duties of a strata corporation or strata council)
- -Real Estate Trading Services (Advising on price, finding property, showing, negotiating, presenting offers, receiving deposits all in relation to Real Estate, ...) Trade means: transaction for purchase, sale, lease,..., assignment of any kind of contract, and a prospective trade. Real Estate Trade Record Sheet includes: the sale price or any kind of consideration, The nature of trade in RE, The name and address of all parties on the trade).

Categories of License

RESA provides <u>4 different categories of licenses</u> under the Rules.

This category is based on the services provided and these services will permit and determine the category of license (**Trading, Strata management, Rental management**). The license category of the <u>managing broker</u> will determine the category of services provided by the brokerage and its licensees.

Applying for a License

An application must be submitted to **BCFSA** in order to obtain a license. To obtain any of these licenses, the brokerage must be identified, because a person may only be licensed in relation to **one brokerage** or provide real estate services on behalf of the brokerage to which they are licensed.

To issue a license, **BCFSA** will <u>conduct an **investigation**</u> about that person, and for any misleading, untrue information, a <u>license</u> may be refused, suspended or canceled. The person who applies for the license must not be <u>convicted of an offense</u>, disciplined by a professional body, or have been disciplined under real estate, insurance, mortgage broker, or any other legislation and jurisdiction in BC.

1- Brokerage

It is a **license** that authorizes a brokerage to provide real estate services through a managing broker, associate broker or representative.

It is not a person but a client always <u>signs a contract</u> with a brokerage not with any persons within the brokerage such as a licensee (brokerage is the provider and <u>designates individual licensees to</u> do the actual work). A licensee should always work for a brokerage in order to keep the license active. All <u>compensations</u> earned in connection with the real estate services must first <u>go to brokerages' trust account</u>, and then brokerage will pay the licensee's remuneration and licensees can never accept any kind of remunerations or gifts from anyone other than their brokerage, otherwise a <u>breach of contract</u> would happen)

Brokerage must <u>maintain all of these records</u> and keep them for at least <u>7 years</u>: maintain proper books, records of real estate's rules, financial and non-financial records, required records files and submit to BCFSA, annual records to BCFSA (3 things: financial statements, accountant's report, and brokerage activity report), and accounts (minimum ONE **Trust account**)

2- Managing Broker

The licensee who is responsible for brokerage and other licensees and must provide real estate services.

Requirements:

- 1- At least 19 years and older;
- 2- Be of good reputation
- 3- Meet the educational and experience requirements
- 4. **Two years** frequent experience with no gap within the last 5 years (licensed)

Responsibilities

- Responsible for exercising the rights conferred on the brokerage, as well as for the performance of the duties imposed on the brokerage by its license
- Controls/ conducts of <u>brokerage's business</u> and supervise of associate brokers and representatives
- Must be actively engaged in the management of the brokerage and ensure that all business is carried out in accordance with **RESA**
- Must take reasonable steps to deal with any issues of professional misconduct or negligent conduct.
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3- Associate Broker

This licensee who meets all the educational requirements, and experience to be a managing broker, but prefers to provide services under the managing broker's supervision.

4- Representative (Licensee)

- At least 19 years or older
- Be of good reputation
- Meet the educational and requirements

Perform:

- 1- Rental Management
- 2- Strata Management
- 3- Trading Services experience

Responsibilities of the Licensees

- Provide all the <u>records</u> (contracts, disclosure forms, accounting statements, ... under RESA) for the managing broker
- Keep informed the managing broker of all their activities
- Respond promptly to managing broker
- Supervise all other employees work on the brokerage
- Promptly notify managing broker of <u>misconduct</u> of themselves, or others in the brokerage

Unlicensed Assistants

Can:

- Unlock property to show
- Filing/bookkeeping
- Draft documents (e.g. draft a contract)
- To be witness for signatures
- Arrange a property for repairs

Cannot:

- Cannot be a host for showing and open house
- Cannot provide guidance
- Cannot present or negotiate offers
- Cannot communicate with consumers
- Cannot obtain or renew contracts

Teams

A group of <u>licensed</u> and <u>unlicensed</u> people from a <u>single brokerage</u> who agree to work as a team to provide a better level of service to gain experience.

- Must include at least two people, and one of whom should be licensed
- Team represents one collective agent (as one agent)
- All licensed team members must be with the same brokerage
- Cannot <u>separate agency relationships</u> among team members (such ads one represent a buyer and one represent a seller in one transaction which will be a Dual Agency and it is prohibited)
- A licensee <u>cannot</u> be a member of <u>more than one team</u> at a time
- Name and member of the team should be registered with BCFSA, and team members must advise BCFSA in writing when they join or leave

Personal Real Estate Corporations

Available to managing brokers, associate brokers, and representatives, but it is more suitable for experienced agents. A corporation licensed under RESA that may be used by a licensee through which they provide real estate services as an individual licensee. A licensee can take advantage of incorporation, which may permit better planning of income and tax streams but it is more suitable for experienced license. It is like a one person **corporation**, and the licensee is the only director, shareholder, and president and will do all the activities and will be liable to the third parties.

PREC is a licensee who <u>may only be licensed in relation to one brokerage</u> or provide real estate services on behalf of the brokerage to which they are licensed.

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Importance of <u>Agency Law</u> in Providing Real Estate Services

Why does someone hire an agent?

- 1- Agents possess knowledge, skills, and abilities that principal might not have
- 2- Geographic and other limitations
- 3- Lack of time or desire.

Agency Law: It is very important in providing Real Estate Services. Agency **is a relationship** in which one person (agent) acts on behalf of another (principal) in dealing with others.

The Role of the Fiduciary: Real estate agents are **fiduciaries**, and principals are **beneficiaries**. Relationship defined by trust and confidence where fiduciaries can exercise power over the beneficiary, and impact their interests.

Fiduciary duties:

- **Duty of loyalty** (it is the core of fiduciary duty; fiduciary must act solely for beneficiary's benefit at all time)
- Duty of to avoid conflict of interest
- Duty of full disclosure
- Duty of confidentiality for always
- Duty to obey lawful instruction

Receiver: A person authorized to exercise all of the powers necessary to wind up the business and affairs

<u>Trust Accounts</u>: an account that the account holder holds money/funds for, and on benefit of another party (the principal). A brokerage must have at least one trust account with one or more saving institutes in BC (e.g. to deposit money from a buyer by the brokerage).

- Licensees must promptly pay or deliver to the brokerage all the money or cheques and must deposit them into brokerages' trust account unless the money should deliver to a third party
- Hold/receive from/for/on behalf of a principal in relation to services
- Hold/ receive on account of remuneration for services
- Interests on brokerage trust accounts is payable to Real Estate Foundation
 (exception: interest will be payable according to principal's instruction, and principal
 may request the money to be hold in a separate trust account, (e.g. commercial
 buildings are expensive and deposits would be kept for a longer period so buyer may
 ask for the interest)

Withdrawals from Trust Accounts

Permitted only if:

- Money deposit to trust account by mistake
- Interest want to pay to Real Estate Foundation
- Money to pay for licensee's remuneration
- <u>Unclaimed money</u> under section 32 of RESA
- Money paid to court for arisen dispute between parties over their rights
- Money accordance with a <u>court order</u>
- To follow the <u>principal's lawful instruction</u>
- It cannot be used for personal or brokerage expenses

Discipline and Enforcement

The two categories of **Complaints** under **RESA** which sets out as an improper conduct by licensees:

1- Professional misconduct

2- Conduct unbecoming a licensee

Professional Misconduct

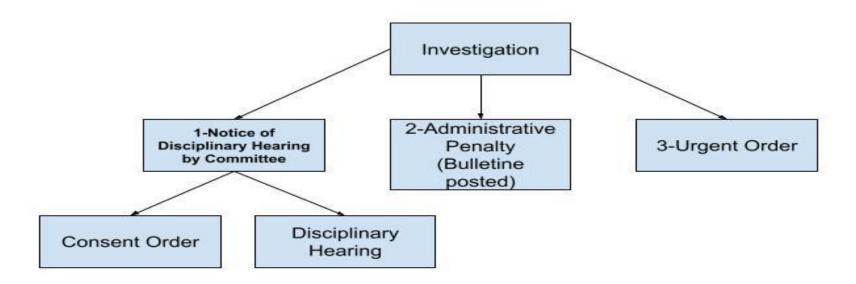
- Contravene Act to RESA (Regulations or Rules)
- Breach a condition of license
- Wrongful taking or deceptive dealing
- Demonstrate incompetence
- Make any misleading or false statement
- Fail to comply with BCFSA's investigation, or order

Conduct unbecoming a licensee

- Contrary to the best interest of public
- Undermines public confidence on RE Industry
- Bring the RE Industry into disrepute

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Discipline Process



Discipline Process

- Investigation: the "compliance committee" will review all the <u>evidence</u> to investigate the complaint, and will decide if the licensee is <u>liable or not</u>, and either dismiss the case or <u>order the disciplinary hearing</u>. BCFSA can conduct an investigation <u>with or without receiving any complaint</u>, and to determine whether a licensee has committed professional misconduct or conduct unbecoming a licensee, or not. Investigations include: licensees, former licensees, or anyone dealing with Real Estate Industry.
- **Notice of Disciplinary Hearing:** The notice includes: to describe the nature of complaint, time and place, and to know that the BCFSA will proceed to hearing with or without presenting the licensee. It must be given at least 21 days in advance of the hearing. After receiving the notice, a licensee may choose either <u>disciplinary hearing or consent order</u>.
- Consent Order: The licensee may decide to enter into an agreement with BCFSA and accept the misconduct.

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Discipline Process

- Administrative Penalty: If the licensee accept the misconduct, without proceeding to Disciplinary hearing, the case will proceed to Administrative Penalty stage, and the misconduct will be posted on the BCFSA's Bulletin (Bulletin Posted)
- Disciplinary Hearing: If the licensee does not willing to consent, a
 disciplinary hearing will be held so the evidence will be gathered and
 delivered by the licensee's lawyer and witnesses will be called and as a
 conclusion the BCFSA will order whether the licensee committed a
 misconduct or not.
- Urgent Order: In the case of any misconduct to the public interest, BCFSA may make an urgent order, BCFSA without giving any notice, may be suspended, restricted or canceled the license, without giving any notice, or holding any disciplinary hearing, and the licensee will be only provided by the notice and the reasons.

Discipline Committees' Orders:

- Warning /reprimand
- Complete disciplinary education
- Restriction on a license/place a condition
- License Suspension/cancellation
- Pay all or part of hearing expenses
- Pay disciplinary penalties (up tp \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for brokerage for each contravention, and an extra \$5,000 by Superintendent as an administrative penalty)
- Return all compensation earned in relation to the transaction in which the misconduct occurred



THANK YOU!