

# Mississippi Real Estate Commission

### February 2023 Newsletter

The Mississippi Real Estate Commission (MREC) is the Licensing and Regulatory authority for the real estate industry in the State of Mississippi. The Agency is charged with the obligation of assuring all real estate transactions are performed in a lawful and professional manner. The primary Agency focus is the protection of the public through the establishment and enforcement of Administrative Rules and Statutory Guidelines to allow for investigating reports of statute and rule violations. The MREC also monitors real estate commerce transpiring between individuals licensed in Mississippi and those licensed in other states.

## Notes From the Commission

#### **Beware of Malicious/Harmful E-mails:**

With an unbelievable volume of e-mails being sent/received by real estate licensees in their e-mail inboxes, it is easy to become overwhelmed. Hastily reviewing your e-mails or responding to e-mails without knowing their origin can cause you to fall victim to fraud, identity theft and other malicious activities. Real estate licensees in practically every state have been subjected to various types of e-mail "Scams" and "Phishing Expeditions" during the last few months. Some of the e-mails appear to have originated from the MREC or from someone you know and lead you to believe they are not only authentic but are safe for responses or to take specific actions. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. Here are some things to watch for in your emails.

### BE WARY OF EMAILS THAT ASK YOU TO CONFIRM PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Beware of all e-mails that request you to confirm items such as login credentials, credit card numbers, social security numbers or banking information. The MREC has all of that information for each licensee, and we will never need you to respond with updates for our records. Licensees should not reply or click on any links or e-mails such as the one described. If you believe the e-mail is not legitimate, you should access your personal online data file at the MREC to view your status and/or contact us for verification.

#### ANALYZE THE E-MAIL SALUTATION:

If the e-mail has an impersonal greeting such as "Valued Customer" or "Business Associate" rather than a more personal salutation with your first and last names,

#### BEWARE OF URGENT LANGUAGE IN THE SUBJECT LINE:

Provoking a sense of fear or urgency is a common phishing tactic. Subject lines that claim your account has been placed "on hold" or that your license has been "placed on inactive status" or an "unauthorized login attempt" has been received or your "account has been suspended" are red flags and should place you on notice that something is not right with the e-mail. Many times, the sense of urgency or insecurity will lead licensees not to think about what is happening.

#### **Commissioners**

Vicki Blackwell 1st Congressional District

Pam Powers 2nd Congressional District

Joe Stedman 3rd Congressional District

Mark Cumbest 4th Congressional District

Robert Praytor Administrator

#### <u>Commission</u> <u>Meetings</u>

MREC Commission Meetings are open to the public. For upcoming scheduled meetings, please visit the link below:

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES (ms.gov)

#### Contact Us!

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Insurance insurance@mrec.state.ms.us

Information info@mrec.state.ms.us

#### DO NOT CLICK OR OPEN UNFAMILIAR ATTACHMENTS:

Many times, attachments will contain malware or viruses which can have a devastating impact on the files of your computer, can access and steal any stored passwords or actually spy on you without you knowing it is occurring. In the case of "Ransomware" both your files and those of your Brokerage Firm can locked and you may be held "hostage" until you pay the attacker's ransom.

#### BEWARE OF OFFERS THAT SEEM TOO GOOD TO BE REAL:

E-mails which call for some immediate action on your part or offers special rewards, vacations, cash prizes, gift cards or anything of value are usually fake and are meant to cause you to momentarily let your guard down. Once the sender has access to your computer, the attacker will have total access to all of your data files, and you will become a victim. Protect your identity, account numbers, login credentials and all those important files which you and your Brokerage need to operate.

Following is the Test Results by approved Education Providers for both Brokers and Salespersons for the last 6 months of 2022.

#### JULY - DEC 2022 COMPILED PASS/FAIL LOG FINAL RESULT

EDUCATION PROVIDER	PASSED STATE EXAM	FAILED STATE EXAM	TOTAL	% PASSED	% FAILED
RETI	168	123	291	57.7%	42.3%
Ms Realtor Institute	155	80	235	66.0%	34.0%
Real Estate Express	71	55	126	56.3%	43.7%
ProEducate	60	36	96	62.5%	37.5%
CE Shop	59	39	98	60.2%	39.8%
Success	19	20	39	48.7%	51.3%
Bob Brooks	9	3	12	75.0%	25.0%
Coast Academy of RE	9	8	17	52.9%	47.1%
Academy of Real Estate & B D	7	14	21	33.3%	66.7%
Real Estate Univ	5	6	11	45.5%	54.5%
Mbition	4	0	4	100.0%	0.0%
Meridian	4	1	5	80.0%	20.0%
MS College	4	2	6	66.7%	33.3%
University of RE	3	6	9	33.3%	66.7%
Hinds	3	3	6	50.0%	50.0%
MSU	3	0	3	100.0%	0.0%
Ole Miss	3	0	3	100.0%	0.0%
Maselle	2	3	5	40.0%	60.0%
Donaldson	1	0	1	100.0%	0.0%
Burk Baker	1	1	2	50.0%	50.0%
Cooke	1	0	1	100.0%	0.0%
DSU	1	0	1	100.0%	0.0%
Dallas College	1	0	1	100.0%	0.0%
Pepperdine	1	0	1	100.0%	0.0%
Univ of AR @ Monticello	1	0	1	100.0%	0.0%
McKissock	0	1	1	0.0%	100.0%
NWMCC	0	1	1	0.0%	100.0%
SWMCC	0	1	1	0.0%	100.0%
MGCCC	0	2	2	0.0%	100.0%
Column Totals	595	405	1000	59.5%	40.5%