

Maryland Real Estate Commission	*	BEFORE THE
	*	MARYLAND REAL
v.	*	STATE COMMISSION
	*	Case No.: 319-RE-2012
SONIA SMITH-MCLAIN	*	
RESPONDENT	*	
	*	
	*	

Consent Order

This matter comes before the Maryland Real Estate Commission (“Commission”) as the result of an audit of continuing education hours conducted by the Commission in connection with the 2011 renewal application of Sonia Smith-Mclain. As a result of the audit, it was determined that the Respondent did not complete the required hours of continuing education instruction for renewal of license. As a means of resolving this matter, the Commission and the Respondent have agreed to enter into this Consent Order, and agree and stipulate to the following:

1. On 12/30/2011 the Respondent submitted an electronic application for the renewal of her salesperson’s license for the (2011-2013) renewal period.
2. Pursuant to Section 17-315 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article, Maryland Annotated Code, the Respondent was required to complete 15 hours of continuing education instruction during the two year period preceding the renewal date of 12/30/2011.
3. The Respondent failed to complete the required number of hours, but certified on the renewal application dated 12/30/2011, that the continuing education requirement had been fulfilled. The failure to obtain the continuing education hours was in

violation of Section 17-315 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article, Maryland Annotated Code.

4. The Respondent agrees that her continuing education requirement was not completed when she answered "Yes, to the question that she completed the required continuing education course needed to renew her salesperson's license".

5. As a term and condition of this Consent Order, the Respondent agrees to pay a fine in the amount of Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1500) in connection with the violation of Section 17-315, Business Occupations and Professions Article, Maryland Annotated Code. In addition, the Respondent will pay a fee in the amount of \$100 for the administrative costs associated with this matter. The fee and fine are to be in three installments:

a. 1st Payment of \$400.00 is due at the time of the execution of the Consent Order; *check # 5240 enclosed*

b. 2nd Payment of \$400.00 is due: July 5, 2012;

c. 3rd Payment of \$400.00 is due: August 16, 2012;

d. Last Payment of \$400.00 is due September 27, 2012.

6. The Respondent also agrees that the 15.0 continuing education courses she submitted after her audit when she renewed her salesperson's license was outside the renewal period and cannot be submitted for her 2013 renewal period.

7. The Respondent waives the right to a formal hearing in this matter and the issuance of charges.

8. The Respondent agrees that all licenses held by the Respondent will automatically be suspended by the Commission, without a hearing, if the Respondent fails to

comply with the terms of this Consent Order. The Respondent further agrees that the suspension of license will continue until the Respondent evidences compliance and issuance of charges and a hearing will be scheduled.

9. The Respondent and the Commission understand that this Consent Order will serve as the Final Order in this matter and be a part of the Respondent's licensing record maintained by the Commission. The Commission's records and publications will reflect the terms of the Consent Order.

WHEREFORE, based on these stipulations and agreements, it is hereby this
21st day of May, 2012, **ORDERED** by the Commission:

- I. That the Respondent has been found to have violated Section 17-315 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article, Maryland Annotated Code.
- II. That the Respondent agrees that 15.0 continuing education courses she submitted after her audit when she renewed her salesperson's license was outside the renewal period and cannot be submitted for her 2013 renewal period.
- III. That the Respondent shall pay a fee of \$100 in connection with the administration of this matter, and a fine of \$1500.00 in connection with the violation within the three payment date plans which are stated in paragraph 5 this Consent Order and if one payment is not made then the Commission will pursue an issuance of charges and a hearing will be scheduled for this matter.
- IV. That in the event the terms and conditions of this Consent Order are not met by the Respondent within the time described, the Commission will immediately suspend all real estate licenses held by the Respondent, without a hearing on the

suspension. The suspension will continue until such time as the Respondent evidences compliance with the terms of this Consent Order.

- V. That the records of the Commission shall reflect that this matter was resolved by execution of this Consent Order.

SIGNATURE ON FILE

SONIA SMITH-MCLAIN
Respondent

SIGNATURE ON FILE

Katherine F. Connelly
Executive Director
Maryland Real Estate Commission