

BEFORE THE IOWA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION  
200 EAST GRAND, SUITE 350  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

IN RE: )  
 ) CASE NUMBER: 20-170  
Scott M. Steffes )  
Broker (B61334000) ) COMBINED STATEMENT OF  
 ) CHARGES, INFORMAL  
Steffes Group, Inc ) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT,  
2245 East Bluegrass Road ) AND CONSENT ORDER IN A  
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641 ) DISCIPLINARY CASE  
 )  
RESPONDENT )

The Iowa Real Estate Commission (Commission) and **Scott M. Steffes** (Respondent) enter into this Combined Statement of Charges, Informal Settlement Agreement, and Consent Order in a Disciplinary Case (Order) pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 17A.10(1) and 272C.3(4).

1. The Commission issued the Respondent real estate broker license number B61334000 on February 6, 2012. Respondent's license is in full force and effect until December 31, 2023. At all times relevant to this matter, the Respondent served both as the designated broker in charge and a licensed real estate broker officer of Steffes Group, Inc, license number F05531000, located in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

2. The Commission has jurisdiction of this disciplinary matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C, and 543B (2020). Licenses issued by the Commission are subject to the laws of the State of Iowa and to the administrative rules of the Commission.

**STATEMENT OF CHARGES**

COUNT I

3. Respondent is charged with failing to diligently exercise reasonable skill and care in supervising a licensee employed by the Respondent, by failing to effectuate an assigned salesperson license transfer application in violation of Iowa Code sections 6.2(3), 543B.2, 543B.5(20), 543B.33, 543B.34(1), 543B.62(3)(b) (2020). See 193E Iowa Administrative Code section 7.11.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

4. Respondent was assigned as the designated broker in charge of real estate brokerage firm Steffes Group, Inc, at all times relevant to this matter. As the designated broker in charge of the real estate brokerage firm, the Respondent is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable rules and regulations governing the firm's operations in the state of Iowa.

5. On August 4, 2020, the Commission received a transfer application form for a real estate salesperson already employed by the Respondent. The application was initiated on January 9, 2020 by the aforementioned real estate salesperson.

6. Between the time period of January 9, 2020 and August 4, 2020, while his Iowa real estate salesperson license was assigned to the Respondent, the salesperson conducted activities requiring a real estate license for Jim Hughes Real Estate, LLC.

7. In January 2020 and throughout August 2020, the Respondent allowed an assigned salesperson to practice real estate for Jim Hughes Real Estate, LLC, a licensed real estate firm, license number F05591000, during the time period in question.

8. Consequently, in 2020, the Respondent allowed a salesperson to conduct activities in the state of Iowa requiring a real estate license outside of the licensed broker or firm that the salesperson was assigned to.

### **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

9. Respondent admits each and every allegation in the above-stated Statement of Charges. This case shall constitute one violation for purposes of Iowa Code section 543B.29(4).

10. Respondent acknowledges that he has a right to receive notice of the above-stated charges and to request a hearing before the Commission on the merits of the charges. By freely and voluntarily entering into this Order, the Respondent waives his right to notice and a hearing and all attendant rights, including the right to seek judicial review. This Order constitutes discipline against the Respondent, and is the final agency order in this contested case pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.10 and 193 Iowa Administrative Code 7.4.

11. Respondent agrees that the State's attorney and/or Commission staff may present this Order to the Commission and may have *ex parte* communications with the Commission while

presenting it. Respondent waives any right of notice of this meeting or any right that the Respondent might have to participate in the discussion of this Order among the Commission, the Commission staff and the State's attorney.

12. This Order shall be part of the permanent record of Respondent and shall be considered by the Commission in determining the nature and severity of any future disciplinary action to be imposed in the event of any future violations of the laws and rules governing the practice of real estate by the Respondent.

13. Failure to comply with the terms of this Order shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of Iowa Code sections 543B.29(1)(d), 543B.34(1) and 272C.3(2)(a) and shall be grounds for further disciplinary action. However, no action may be taken against the Respondent for violations of this Order without a hearing, or waiver of hearing.

14. This Order is not binding on the Iowa Real Estate Commission until it has been formally approved by a majority of the Commission members.

(a) In the event that this Order is rejected by the Commission it shall be of no force or effect to either party, and it shall not be admissible for any purpose in further proceedings in this matter.

(b) If the Commission approves this Order, it shall fully dispose of all issues in this case.

15. Upon acceptance by both the Commission and Respondent, this Combined Statement of Charges, Informal Settlement Agreement and Consent Order shall be a public record available for inspection and copying in its entirety in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 22 (2020).

### **CONSENT ORDER**

#### **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

16. REPRIMAND. Pursuant to 193E Iowa Administrative Code section 18.14(1)(j), the Respondent is reprimanded.

17. CIVIL PENALTY. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty to the Commission in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) no later than twelve (12) months after acceptance of this Order by the Commission. The civil penalty must come under a cover letter addressed to the Commission's Executive Officer, referencing Case Number 20-170.

18. FUTURE COMPLIANCE. Respondent shall at all future times fully and promptly comply with all pertinent Orders of the Commission and the statutes and Commission rules regulating the practice of real estate.

**WHEREFORE**, the terms of this Combined Statement of Charges, Informal Settlement Agreement and Consent Order are agreed to and accepted by the Iowa Real Estate Commission and the Respondent.

**FOR THE RESPONDENT:**

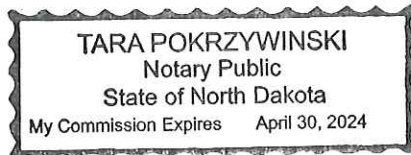
Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by **Scott M. Steffes** on this 3 day of May, 2023.


  
By: **SCOTT M. STEFFES**, Respondent

State of ND)

County of Cass)

Signed and sworn to before me on this 3 day of May, 2023, by:



  
Notary Public, State of North Dakota  
Printed Name: Tara Pokrzywinski  
My Commission Expires: 04/30/2024

**FOR THE COMMISSION:**

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by the **IOWA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION** on this 8th day of June, 2023.

  
**JAMES M. H. CLINGMAN**, Chair  
Iowa Real Estate Commission