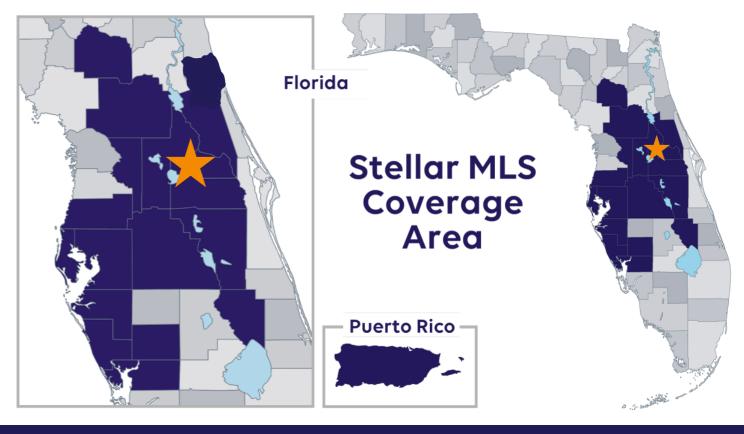
# MLS Listing Compliance



### Stellar MLS Headquarters

247 Maitland Ave. Ste. 2000, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701





### Stellar MLS Coverage Area

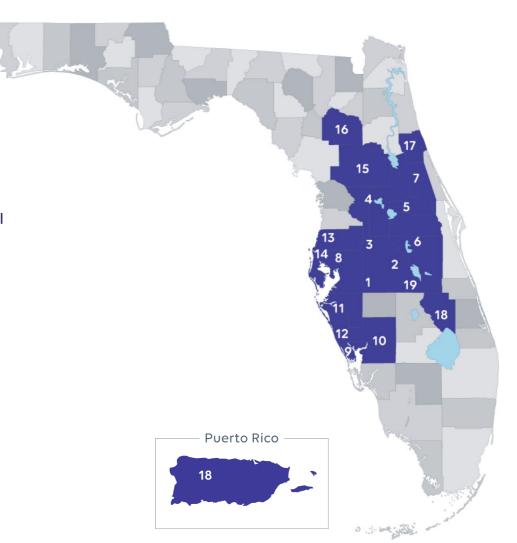
#### **Shareholder Organizations**

- 1. Bartow Board of REALTORS®, Inc.
- 2. East Polk County Association of REALTORS®
- 3. Lakeland REALTORS®
- 4. REALTORS® Association of Lake & Sumter Counties
- 5. Orlando Regional REALTOR® Association
- 6. Osceola County Association of REALTORS®
- 7. West Volusia Association of REALTORS®
- 8. Greater Tampa REALTORS®
- 9. Englewood Area Board of REALTORS®
- 10. REALTORS® of Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte-North Port-DeSoto, Inc.®

- 11. REALTOR® Association of Sarasota & Manatee
- 12. Venice Area Board of REALTORS®
- 13. West Pasco Board of REALTORS®
- 14. Pinellas REALTOR® Organization & Central Pasco REALTOR® Organization
- 15. Ocala Marion County Association of REALTORS®
- 16. Gainesville-Alachua County Association of Realtors®
- 17. Flagler County Association of Realtors®
- 18. Okeechobee County Board of Realtors®

#### **Customer Organizations**

- 19. Lake Wales Association of REALTORS®
- 20. Puerto Rico Association of REALTORS®



### Why an MLS?

- Provides a framework for Data Integrity!
- Blanket Unilateral Offers of Compensation
- Nationally, in-house sales are under 25%



### Cooperation fuels business!



### Why Listing Compliance?

Understanding the MLS Rules & Regulations ensure that we all have better data!

Violations can be costly to your business and to the business of others.

An overview of the listing entry process as it pertains to the MLS Rules and Regulations

#### MLS Subscription

- \* An MLS subscription is only for one user
- The MLS contains highly sensitive data
- Unlicensed assistants and Appraisers must have their own accounts, purchased through your local Realtor ® Board

Password sharing is strictly prohibited, and fines can range from \$500 (first offense) to \$15,000 (multiple offenses)



# Rules & Regulations

### Who Makes the Rules & Regulations?



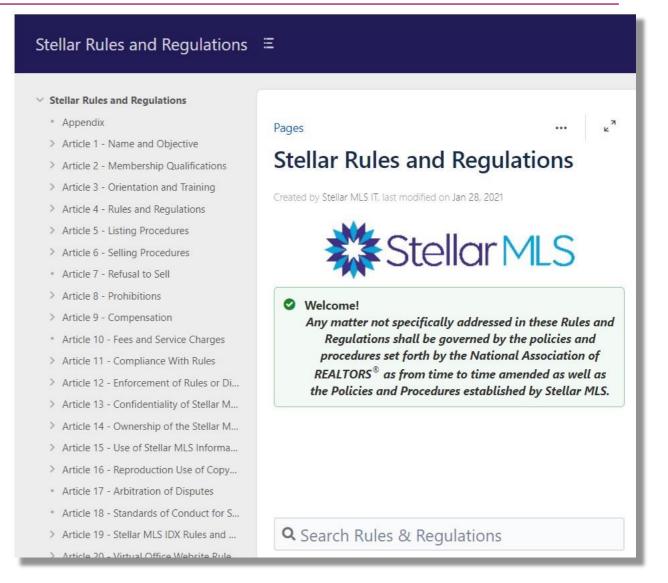
Several rules come directly from the National Association of Realtors® Handbook on Multiple Listing Policy

- Other rules are enacted by the Board of Directors of Stellar MLS
  - Recommendations from MLS Advisory Council (MAC)



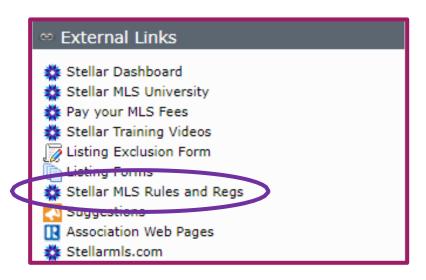
### **MLS Rules & Regulations**

- Ensures the spirit of cooperation
- Ensures that accurate data is shared in a timely manner
- The online version is easily searchable!

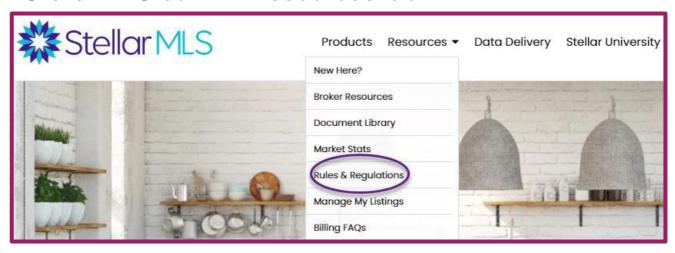


### Where do you find the Rules & Regs?

#### Matrix



#### StellarMLS.com -> Resources tab



#### Stellar Central









### Searching the Rules & Regulations

#### By Article

### By Keyword / Topic

#### SPACE SHORTCUTS

- How-to articles
- Stellar Rules and Regulations
  - Appendix
  - Article 1 Name and Objective
  - > Article 2 Membership Qualifications
  - Article 3 Orientation and Training
  - > Article 4 Rules and Regulations
  - > Article 5 Listing Procedures
  - Article 6 Selling Procedures

#### Q virtual staging

- Article 4.4: Virtually Staged Photos
  - Section 4: Virtually Staged Photos Virtual Staging shall only be used for the interior of an existing structure.

    Virtual Staging shall not be used for Under Construction properties. Disclosure of virtually-staged photo(s) is
- Article 4.5: Listing Content and Virtual Tours
  - Section 5: Listing Content and Virtual Tours A. At least one front exterior photo or rendering, aerial photo, or water view from the property (unit) must be loaded before a listing will be active. The front exterior photo or
- Article 20 Virtual Office Website Rules and Regulations
- Article 14.1: Submittal of Listing
  - Section 1: Submittal of Listing. By submitting any property listing to MLS, the Participant represents that: By the act of submitting any property listing content to the MLS, the Participant represents that: They have been been
- Article 20.1: Definitions
  - Section 1: Definitions A. A Virtual Office Website ("VOW") is a Participant's Internet website, or a feature of a Participant's website, through which the Participant is capable of providing real estate brokerage services to
- Q See more results for 'virtual staging'



#### **MLS Listing Types**

#### The MLS Accepts

**Exclusive Right to Sell Listings** 

**Exclusive Agency Listings** 

**Exclusive Listings with Exceptions\*\*** 

#### The MLS Does Not Accept





#### **Limited-Service Listings**

- Broker performs a la carte functions for set fee
- Specific wording in Listing Agreement (Not a FSBO)
- Cooperating broker may be instructed to work directly with seller
- Still makes offer of compensation
- Listing agent fully responsible for maintaining listing in MLS

#### **Submission of Listings**

Mandatory listing types must be submitted to Stellar MLS within 5 business days.....

Date Owner(s) Sign Agreement

or

Effective Date of Listing Agreement
or

5 DAYS

Within One "1" Business day of Public Marketing



### What counts as public marketing?

Policy 8.0, Clear Cooperation, states that a property must be listed in the MLS within one business day of marketing a property to the public. Public marketing includes, but is not limited to:



Flyers displayed in windows



Yard signs



Digital marketing on public facing websites



Brokerage website displays (including IDX and VOW)



Digital communications marketing (email blasts)



Multi-brokerage listing sharing networks



### **Exempt Listings: Article 5.11**

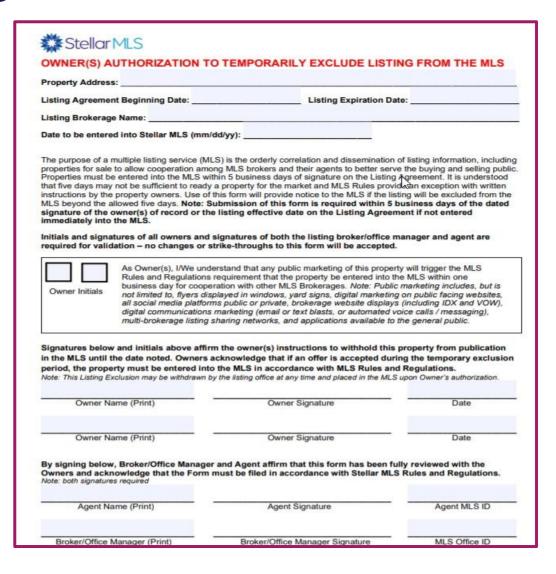
Temporary Exclusion Form

- Office Exclusive No Entry into the MLS Form
- ANY public marketing triggers the one-business day rule to enter the listing into the MLS.

Was this listing on a temporary exclusion from the MLS prior to you entering it?

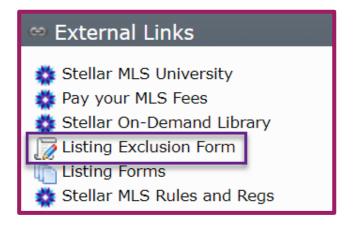






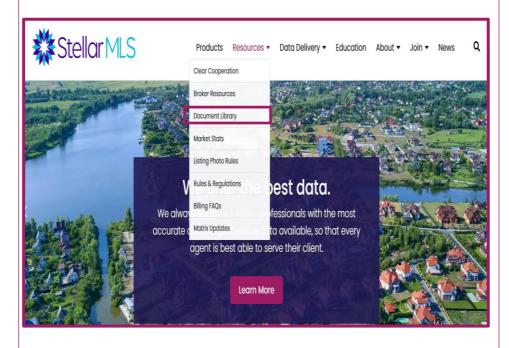
### Finding Exclusion Forms

#### **External Links in Matrix**





#### StellarMLS.com Document Library



#### Form Simplicity and Transaction Desk

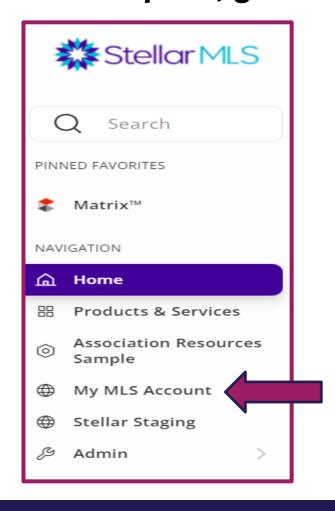




Owner's Authorization to Exclude Listing from the MLS

#### The Online Submission or Reporting Process

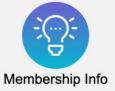
Log in to StellarMLS.com
From the Stellar Central Workspace, go to the "My MLS Account"





#### **Submit and Manage Exclusion Forms**

#### You are currently logged in with MLS IC









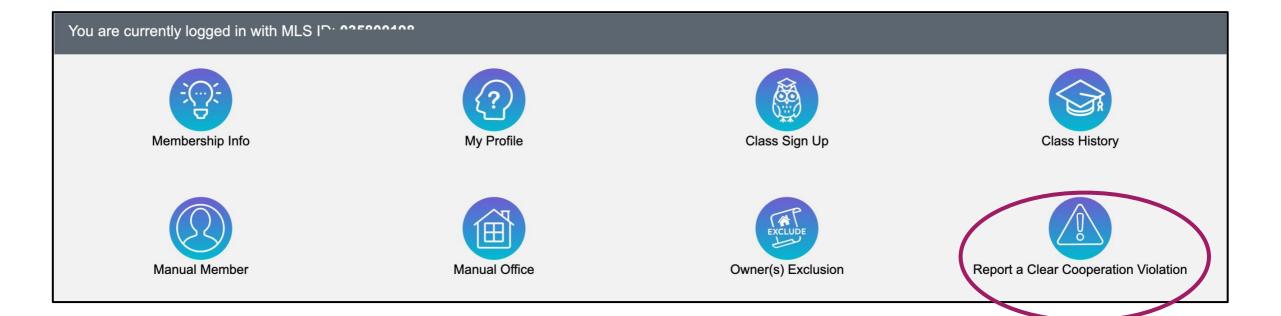








### **Searching Exclusion Forms**



#### **Executed Listing Agreement – 5 Business Days**

Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5

- 1. Put in the MLSor2. File a Temporary Exclusion
  - Or
- 3. File an Office Exclusive Exclusion















## 1 Business Day to Enter





# Listings

#### **Mandatory Listing Types**

- Single Family homes for sale or exchange
- Condominiums, co-ops and townhouse for sale or exchange
- Vacant Residential lots or parcels for sale or exchange
- Mobile homes with land for sale or exchange
- Duplexes, triplexes or quadruplexes for sale or exchange
- Commercial and Residential lease

#### **Listing Classifications**

Multi-family income generating property such as duplexes, triplexes, etc. go under "Income Property", not "Residential"

Residential vacant lots go under "Vacant Land"

Properties with tenants in place are entered as Residential (not income)

#### Add New Listing

#### Select Form

Residential - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Commercial Sale - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Commercial Lease - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Business Opportunity - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Income - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Vacant Land - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Rental - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Residential
Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Commercial Sale
Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Business Opportunity
Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Income
Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Vacant Land
Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Rental

#### Manufactured Homes / Mobile Homes

- Must be on seller-owned land or in a resident- owned / Co-op Mobile Home Park
- Otherwise, not allowed in MLS
- Check tax records for ownership details



MH Make		MH Model		MH Width
	?		?	☐ Double Wide
				☐ Single Wide
				☐ Triple Wide  ▼



#### **New Construction**

### To be considered Residential, must have:

- ✓ Specific Lot
- ✓ Specific Structure
- ✓ Specific Price

Otherwise, the listing must be classified as vacant land

New Construction Y/N
No ∨ ?



### **Sold Data Entry Only**



- Agent facilitates the sale of a property not listed in Stellar MLS
- Separate listing input form
- Must contain at least one photo
- Must be entered within 30 days of closing

#### Add New Listing

#### Select Form

Residential - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Commercial Sale - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Commercial Lease - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Business Opportunity - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Income - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Vacant Land - Add/Edit Listing Fields
Rental - Add/Edit Listing Fields

Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Residential Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Commercial Sale

Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Commercial Lease

Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Business Opportunity

Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Income

Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Vacant Land

Sold Data Entry Only (SDEO) - Rental



### **Listing Preparation Checklist**

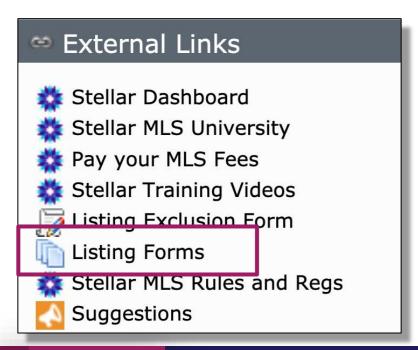
#### Are you ready to enter a Listing?

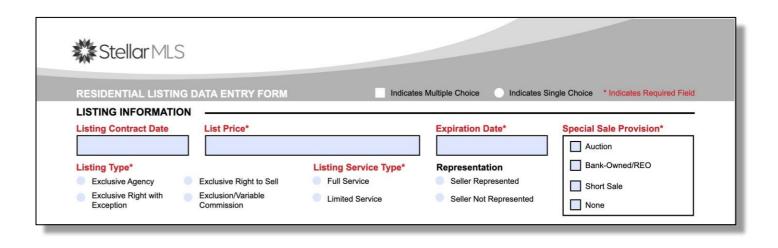
- Signed Listing Agreement
  Listing Data Entry Form

  - Photos
  - Attachments (disclosures, floor plans, surveys, etc.)
  - ☑ Customize ShowingTime Defaults

### **Listing Data Entry Form**

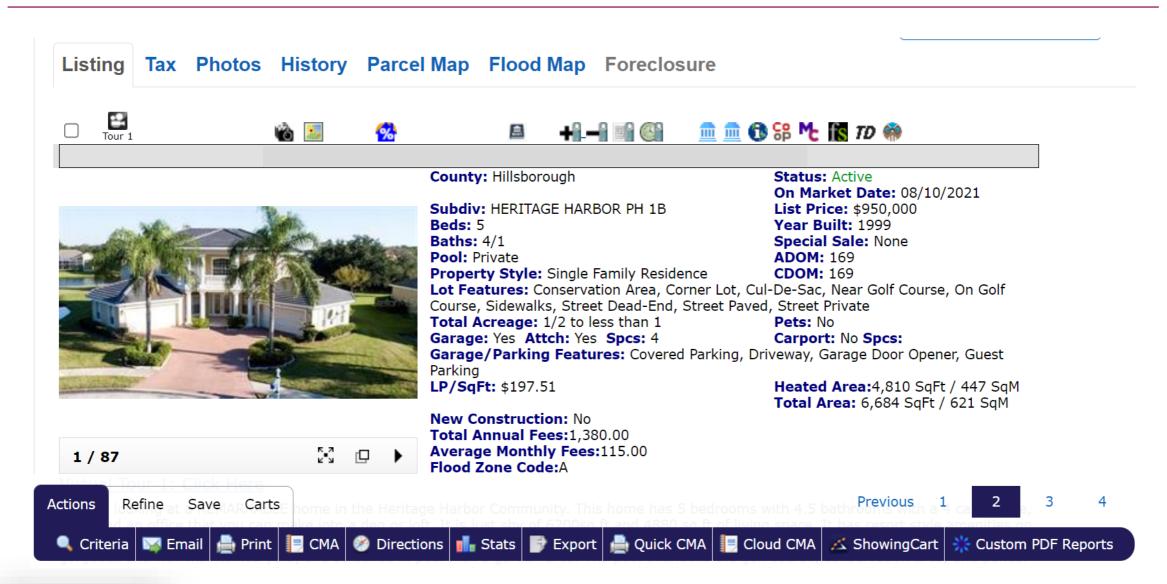
- Listing Data Entry form must be
  - completed prior to entering the listing and
  - signed by both the sellers and broker
- Forms for each listing classification.







#### **360 Property View**







### Disclosures



#### **Special Sale Provisions**

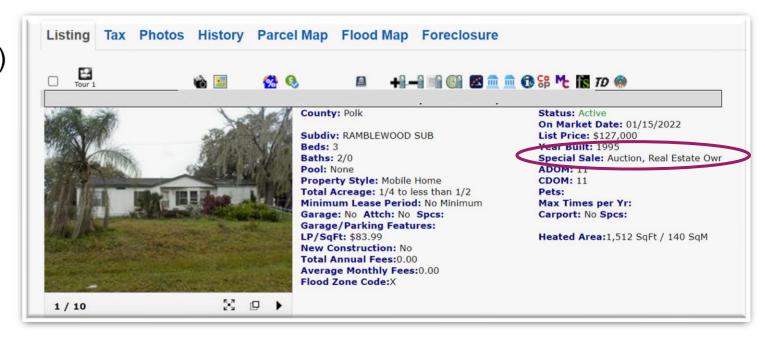
#### The following Special Sale Provisions must be disclosed:

Auction (Article 5.24)

REO/Bank Owned (Article 4.18)

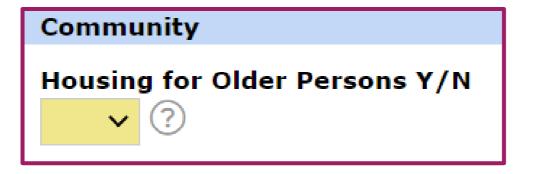
Short Sale (Article 4.14 & Article 5.1)





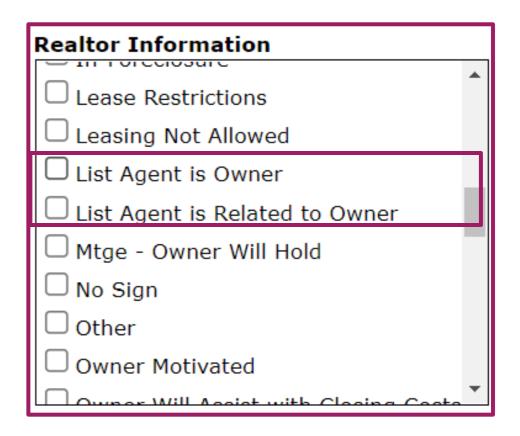
#### **Housing for Older Persons**

# Indicate if a property is part of a 55+ community



### **Agent Owned Property**

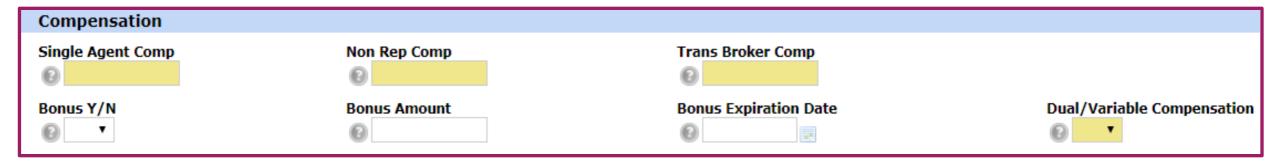
- Must disclose if listing personal property or property of family member (Article 9.4)
- Realtor Information field and remarks
- Must also disclose in writing if purchasing property for yourself or family member to listing broker no later than time of submitting offer



Realtor Remarks: The listing agent is the owner of the property.



#### **Compensation Rules**



Commission amounts and splits are at the sole discretion of the listing broker. Stellar MLS <u>cannot</u> be involved in these decisions.

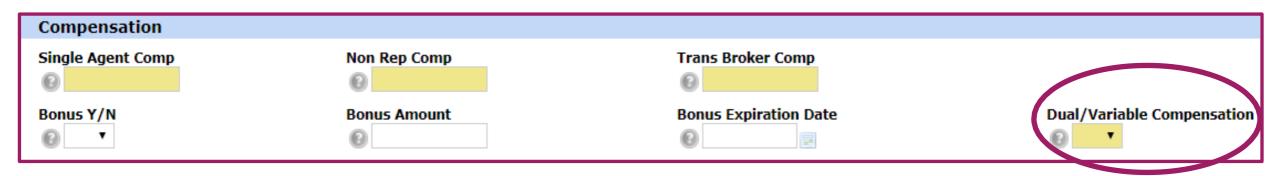
Prior to activating a listing, the compensation amount offered to cooperating broker must be entered. (Must match listing agreement)

Must be a blanket, unilateral offer of compensation (no additional terms in

Be sure to use the % symbol for percentages and/or the \$ sign for dollars.



#### **Dual / Variable Compensation**



A Variable Compensation is when the seller owes the listing brokerage a higher commission amount if the cooperating broker brings a buyer.

If the listing agent brings the buyer and there is a multiple offer scenario, the listing broker's offer *could* be more competitive since a lower commission would be owed.

This must be disclosed and match what is written into the listing agreement.

#### **Showing Instructions**

- Only place to enter confidential showing information (codes, etc.)
- Only viewable by clicking on the ShowingTime button in the listing
- Subscribers must have a valid real estate license to access



Showingtime

Showing Information		
Call Center Phone Number	ShowingTime Secure Remarks	
(?)		
Occupant Type		
	Characters Remaining: 500	?)
	Characters Remaining: 500	

Showing Instructions				
☐ No Sign	•	?		
Other				
Pet On Premises				
See Remarks				
Under Construction				
Use ShowingTime Button	<b>-</b>			

#### **Driving Directions**

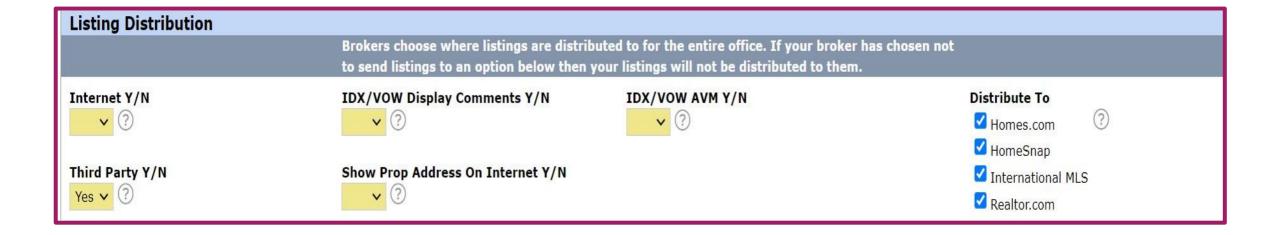
- ✓ Turn-by-turn directions are required from a major intersection
- ✓ First direction needs to be a cardinal/compass direction
- ✓ No URLs or contact information

I 75 to Exit 240. West towards Ruskin. Right on US 41. Left on Shell Pt Rd. Right on 32nd St. Cross bridge into Little Harbor. Left at stop sign. Town home located in 3rd building on the right.



Use GPS, Google maps or your favorite map tool.

#### Where Do Listings Go?



- Brokers choose where listings are distributed to for the entire office.
- For an individual listing, you can opt out of certain sites if the seller does not want their property to display on them.
- ❖ The selections above originate from the FR Exclusive Right of Sale Listing Agreement.



#### **Public Remarks**

- Are intended to be visible on public sites and customer reports.
- Stick to the facts of the property
- No agent/company information, web sites, showing information, open house information, financial information
- Be careful to not misrepresent property or use overly vague terms (i.e. Close to the beach).
- Be careful not to "steer" buyers (Fair Housing)
- Restricted Words

#### **Public Remarks**

Scenic, classic, and welcoming, this custom-designed home is located in Sarasota's preferred "West of the Trail" neighborhood on a quiet street. Configured for a variety of lifestyles, the floor plan includes two master suites with one located on each level. The owners' large master suite is on the ground floor along with a tastefully appointed kitchen open to the family and dining rooms. Also on the main floor is a second TV room/office with French doors, a laundry room, a half bath, and a large storage closet. Perfect for singles, empty nesters, retired couples, or seasonal residents. Upstairs is ideal for the kids, grandkids, or guests, with three bedrooms and two additional full baths easily sleeping 7 or more. There are two brand new high seer rated A/C units and a new 50-gallon hybrid hot water heater. Enjoy your own private pool, Jacuzzi, and large fenced back yard. The desired upgrades are all present in this beautiful home. Enjoy afternoon bay breezes and close proximity to beaches, downtown, great schools, and all of the culture Sarasota offers. Own this home for 5% down.

# Smile In

#### **Photos**



#### **Photos**

- ✓ At least one photo required prior to activating listing (100 max.)
- ✓ No copying of other brokers' photos without written consent.
- ✓ Stellar does not remove photos. You will need to remove and/or update them.
- ✓ There can be no agent/company branding, signage, or any other text in photos
- ✓ No characters or people in the photos















#### First Photo Rules



OR



OR



Front Exterior no broker signage

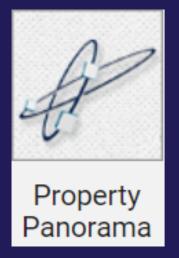
Water View from the Subject Property

Aerial View from a non-copyrighted source

If you use either water view or aerial photo – the second photo MUST be front exterior.









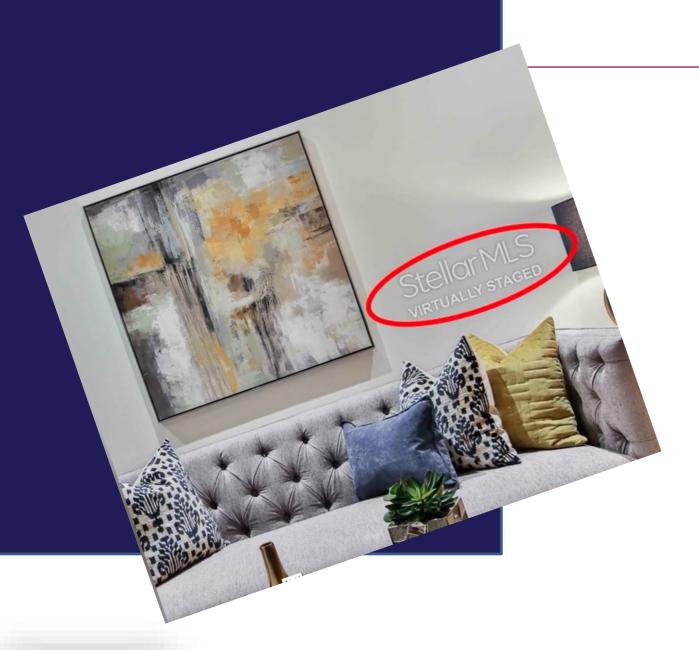
### Virtual Tours

#### **Virtual Tours**

- Only unbranded virtual tours may be placed in Virtual Tour links
- Property Panorama offers an unbranded virtual tour for the first 5 images
- No contact information or agent/office branding
- YouTube videos must be an embedded link (no visible channel information)







### Virtually Staged

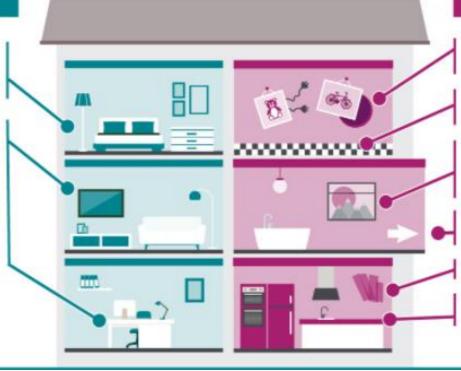
#### **Virtual Staging**

#### Interior



Modify or render existing furniture and décor in a room

Add virtual furniture, décor and artwork to an empty room



#### O YOU CANNOT

Cover-up eyesores like holes in a wall or exposed wiring

Upgrade damaged and/or outdated flooring

Add or enhance scenic views and/or windows that do not currently exist

Make a room appear larger or smaller than what it truly is

Change paint color of the walls

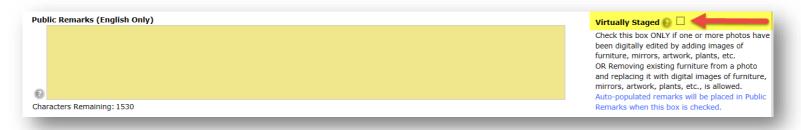
Swap out fixtures and finishes

#### **Virtual Staging**



#### Virtually Staged

1. You must check the "Virtually Staged" box to populate the Public Remarks of a listing.



2. You must also indicate "Virtually Staged" in the caption of each virtually staged photo.













# Keeping your Listings in Compliance



#### Withdrawn Listings

## Status: Withdraw Conditional Withdraw Unconditional (Canceled)

- Can remain in that status until the expiration date
- Broker still may be entitled to commission

#### **Temporarily Off-Market**

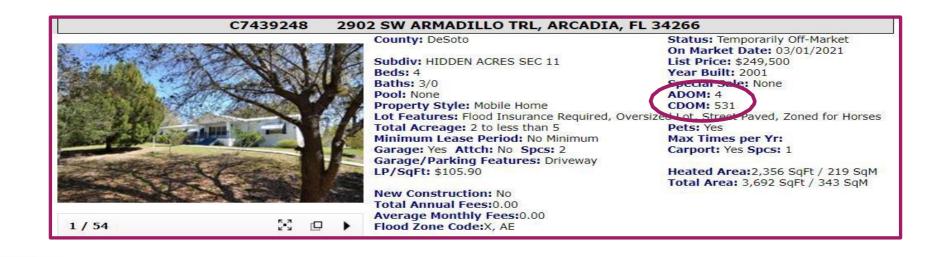


- Active Listings in the MLS must be available to show
- If a listing becomes unavailable for showings, status can be changed to "Temporarily Off- Market" (with seller's written permission)
- May stay in "Temporarily Off-Market" status until expiration date



#### Days on the Market

- Active Days on Market (ADOM) is tied to a specific MLS ID
  - Creating a new listing causes ADOM to reset to 0.
- Cummulative Days on Market (CDOM) is tied to a specific Property ID
  - Creating a new listing causes CDOM to reset to 0.





#### **Listing Manipulation**

- A listing within the <u>same office</u> that expires, is withdrawn, or cancelled should be reactivated with the same MLS ID if this occurs within 30 days from the expiration, withdrawal, or cancellation date.
- Creating a new listing ID prior to 30 days from an expired, withdrawn, or cancelled listing from the <u>same office</u> to make it appear as new is a listing manipulation subject to a \$500 fine.

#### Creating a New MLS Number

Valid reasons for creating new listing ID

- 1. Execution of a new listing agreement by new office
- Execution of a new listing agreement on a property by the same brokerage dated 30 days or more after expiration or withdrawal of original listing

#### **Using MLS Data**

An IDX feed is the only authorized way to advertise another broker's active listing online without written permission.

Print advertisements cannot contain other brokers' active listings without written permission.



#### **Print Advertising**

- Information on sold listings and aggregate data
- Ads are not misleading and include the proper disclosures

#### Article 6.5: Advertising of Listing Filed with Stellar MLS

Created by Stellar MLS IT, last modified on May 22, 2019

#### Section 5: Advertising of Listing Filed with Stellar MLS

A listing shall not be advertised by any other Participant without the prior written consent of the Listing Participant. Use of information from Stellar MLS compilation of current listing information, from the Association's "Statistical Report" or from any "sold" or "comparable" report of an Association or Stellar MLS for public mass-media advertising by a Participant or in other public representations may not be prohibited. However, any print or non-print forms of advertising or other forms of public representations based in whole or in part on information supplied by the Associations or Stellar MLS must include the following notice:

"Based on information from the Stellar Multiple Listing Service for the period (date) through (date). This information may or may not include all listed expired, withdrawn, pending or sold properties of one or more members of the Stellar Multiple Listing Service".



#### **Timeline**





#### Violations

#### **How Violations are Detected**

To maintain data integrity, Stellar MLS uses scanning software for common violations.

The Stellar Data Integrity Team closely monitors listings.

#### \*\*1st Notice: Please Review Your MLS Listing for Compliance\*\*

It appears that your MLS listing may not be in compliance with the MLS Rules and Regulations. If not corrected by the grace period indicated you <u>may</u> be assessed a fine. For reference, view <u>Stellar MLS Rules</u> & Regulations.

One of the key services that Stellar MLS can offer its subscribers is the most current and complete data in the MLS database. Data integrity is priority number one for us! It is critical to have a clean database that you can have confidence in.

To view all of your violation notifications, visit My Notifications
To view all of your violations, visit My Violation Inventory.

Listing Details:	MLS#: Address:	
Notification#	Notification Details	
5008164	Grace Period to Correct Without Fine:	07/06/2021
	Rule Name:	Pending Listing w/Past Expected Closing Date
	Description:	Article 4.29: Expected Closing Date You have a Pending listing with an expected closing date which has passed.
	Instructions:	Please update the status to Sold or extend the expected closing date.
Violation Fields:		
Expected Closing Date:	06/30/2021	



#### **How to Report a Violation**

- Collaboration with other agents is encouraged
- If you notice a violation on a listing, report the violation anonymously by clicking the link on the bottom of the listing.



If you believe there is a violation on this listing, click here to report the problem.

#### **Violations Info**

- For minor violations, a Courtesy Warning may first be issued. The violations must be corrected within a designated timeframe before a fine is assessed.
- For more serious violations, automatic fines are assessed.
- Violations must be corrected promptly, or fine amount will increase.
- ❖ If a fine is issued in error, there is a waiver and appeal process.



# TOP 6 VIOLATIONS

#### **Top Violations**

Contact Information in Public
Remarks

Article 4, Section 6

Public remarks cannot contain any contact information, including but not limited to: phone numbers, compensation, website URLs, or office information. Public remarks should only pertain to the subject property or transaction.



**Exempt Listings** 

Article 5, Section 11

If a seller does not want their listing in the MLS, The Owners Authorization to Exclude Listing From the MLS Form can be used. Agents must use the online submission process to submit their forms according to compliance guidelines. Per NAR® policy, as soon as a listing is publicly marketed it must go into the MLS

Pending Listing with a Past Expected Closing Date

Article 4, Section 29

Expected closing date must be maintained in the system. If a property goes past the closing date recorded in the system, the date must be updated to avoid a fine.





#### **Top Violations**

Failure to Report a Sold Listing

Article 5, Section 12

A change in listing status must be reported in the Stellar MLS system within 2 business days. If a listing has sold and proof of this recent sale can be found an immediate fine will apply.



Listing Manipulation

Article 4, Section 15

A new listing cannot be created by the same office within 30 days of the expiration, withdrawn or canceled date of the original. A withdrawn, canceled, or expired listing should only receive a new MLS number if outside of 30 days.



Photo, Virtual Staging & Virtual Tour Violations

Article 4, Section 5

Photos and virtual tours cannot include branded signage, text or graphics (barring a few exceptions), the first photo in the listing must be of the front exterior of the property, agents must own the rights to the photos they are posting, and virtually staged photos must be properly disclosed and virtual staging rules adhered to.





#### **Compliance Assistance**

Toll Free: (800) 686-7451

Local: (407) 960-5300

**Email:** dataintegrity@stellarmls.com

Hours:

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## Thank you for joining us today



