



# AGENCY LAW DISCLOSURE

Disclosure Regarding Real Estate Agency Relationships

Prepared by: Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
Broker \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** This form is used by agents as an attachment when preparing for client signature any representation/purchase/exchange/option agreement or counteroffer relating to any marketable interest in real estate, to inform consumers about agency relationships with brokers. [Calif. Civil Code §§2079 et seq.]

When negotiating a leasehold for a term exceeding one year, use **RPI Form 305-1 or 550-2.**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, California.

### TO THE SELLER AND THE BUYER:

1. **FACTS:** When you enter into a discussion with a real estate agent regarding a real estate transaction, you should from the outset understand what type of agency relationship or representation you wish to have with the agent in the transaction.
2. **SELLER AGENT:** A Seller Agent under a representation agreement with the Seller acts as the Agent for the Seller only. A Seller Agent or a subagent of that Agent has the following affirmative obligations:
  - 2.1 To the Seller:
    - a. A fiduciary duty of utmost care, integrity, honesty and loyalty in dealings with the Seller.
  - 2.2 To the Buyer and the Seller:
    - a. Diligent exercise of reasonable skill and care in performance of the Agent's duties.
    - b. A duty of honest and fair dealing and good faith.
    - c. A duty to disclose all facts known to the Agent materially affecting the value or desirability of the property that are not known to, or within the diligent attention and observation of the parties.
  - 2.3 An Agent is not obligated to reveal to either party any confidential information obtained from the other party which does not involve the affirmative duties set forth above.
3. **BUYER AGENT:** A Buyer Agent can, with a Buyer's consent, agree to act as the Agent for the Buyer only. This includes a Buyer agent under a Buyer Representation Agreement with the Buyer. In these situations, the Agent is not the Seller Agent, even if by agreement the Agent may receive compensation for services rendered, either in full or in part, from the Seller. An Agent acting only for a Buyer has the following affirmative obligations:
  - 3.1 To the Buyer:
    - a. A fiduciary duty of utmost care, integrity, honesty, and loyalty in dealings with the Buyer.
  - 3.2 To the Buyer and the Seller:
    - a. Diligent exercise of reasonable skill and care in performance of the Agent's duties.
    - b. A duty of honest and fair dealing and good faith.
    - c. A duty to disclose all facts known to the Agent materially affecting the value or desirability of the property that are not known to, or within the diligent attention and observation, of the parties. An Agent is not obligated to reveal to either party any confidential information obtained from the other party that does not involve the affirmative duties set forth above.
4. **AGENT REPRESENTING BOTH THE SELLER AND THE BUYER:** A Real Estate Agent, either acting directly or through one or more salespersons and broker associates, can legally be the Agent of both the Seller and the Buyer in a transaction, but only with the knowledge and consent of both the Seller and the Buyer.
  - 4.1 In a dual agency situation, the Agent has the following affirmative obligations to both the Seller and the Buyer:
    - a. A fiduciary duty of utmost care, integrity, honesty and loyalty in the dealings with either the Seller or the Buyer.
    - b. Other duties to the Seller and the Buyer as stated above in their respective sections.
  - 4.2 In representing both Seller and Buyer, a dual agent may not, without the express permission of the respective party, disclose to the other party confidential information, including, but not limited to, facts relating to either the Buyer's or Seller's financial position, motivations, bargaining position or other personal information that may impact price, including the Seller's willingness to accept a price less than the listing price or the Buyer's willingness to pay a price greater than the price offered.
5. **SELLER AND BUYER RESPONSIBILITIES:** Either the purchase agreement or a separate document will contain a confirmation of which agent is representing you and whether that agent is representing you exclusively in the transaction or acting as a dual agent. Please pay attention to that confirmation to make sure it accurately reflects your understanding of your agent's role.
6. The above duties of the Agent in a real estate transaction do not relieve a Seller or a Buyer from the responsibility to protect their own interests. You should carefully read all agreements to assure that they adequately express your understanding of the transaction. A Real Estate Agent is a person qualified to advise about real estate. If legal or tax advice is desired, consult a competent professional.
7. If you are a Buyer, you have the duty to exercise reasonable care to protect yourself, including as to those facts about the property which are known to you or within your diligent attention and observation.
8. Both Sellers and Buyers should strongly consider obtaining tax advice from a competent professional because the federal and state tax consequences of a transaction can be complex and subject to change.
9. Throughout your real property transaction, you may receive more than one disclosure form, depending upon the number of Agents assisting in the transaction. The law requires each Agent with whom you have more than a casual relationship to present you with this disclosure form. You should read its contents each time it is presented to you, considering the relationship between you and the Real Estate Agent in your specific transaction.
10. This disclosure form includes the provisions of §2079.13 to §2079.24, inclusive, of the Calif. Civil Code set forth on the reverse hereof. Read it carefully.

_____ (Buyer Broker)	_____ Date
_____ (Signature of Salesperson or Broker-Associate, if any)	_____ Date
_____ (Seller Broker)	_____ Date
_____ (Signature of Salesperson or Broker-Associate, if any)	_____ Date

_____ (Buyer's Signature)	_____ Date
_____ (Buyer's Signature)	_____ Date
_____ (Seller's Signature)	_____ Date
_____ (Seller's Signature)	_____ Date

2079.13. As used in Sections 2079.14 to 2079.24, inclusive, the following terms have the following meanings:

- a. "Agent" means a person acting under provisions of Title 9 (commencing with Section 2295) in a real property transaction, and includes a person who is licensed as a real estate broker under Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 10130) of Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code, and under whose license a listing is executed or an offer to purchase is obtained.  
The agent in the real property transaction bears responsibility for that agent's salespersons or broker associates who perform as agents of the agent. When a salesperson or broker associate owes a duty to any principal, or to any buyer or seller who is not a principal, in a real property transaction, that duty is equivalent to the duty owed to that party by the broker for whom the salesperson or broker associate functions.
- b. "Buyer" means a transferee in a real property transaction, and includes a person who executes an offer to purchase real property from a seller through an agent, or who seeks the services of an agent in more than a casual, transitory, or preliminary manner, with the object of entering into a real property transaction. "Buyer" includes vendee or lessee of real property.
- c. "Commercial real property" means all real property in the state, except (1) single-family residential real property, (2) dwelling units made subject to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 1940) of Title 5, (3) a mobilehome, as defined in Section 798.3, (4) vacant land, or (5) a recreational vehicle, as defined in Section 799.29.
- d. "Dual agent" means an agent acting, either directly or through a salesperson or broker associate, as agent for both the seller and the buyer in a real property transaction.
- e. "Listing/representation agreement" means a written contract between a seller of real property and an agent, by which the agent has been authorized to sell the real property or to find or obtain a buyer, including rendering other services for which a real estate license is required to the seller pursuant to the terms of the agreement.
- f. "Seller agent" means a person who has obtained a listing of real property to act as an agent for compensation.
- g. "Listing price" is the amount expressed in dollars specified in the listing for which the seller is willing to sell the real property through the seller agent.
- h. "Offering price" is the amount expressed in dollars specified in an offer to purchase for which the buyer is willing to buy the real property.
- i. "Offer to purchase" means a written contract executed by a buyer acting through a buyer agent that becomes the contract for the sale of the real property upon acceptance by the seller.
- j. "Real property" means any estate specified by subdivision (1) or (2) of Section 761 in property, and includes (1) single-family residential property, (2) multiunit residential property with more than four dwelling units, (3) commercial real property, (4) vacant land, (5) a ground lease coupled with improvements, or (6) a manufactured home as defined in Section 18007 of the Health and Safety Code, or a mobilehome as defined in Section 18008 of the Health and Safety Code, when offered for sale or sold through an agent pursuant to the authority contained in Section 10131.6 of the Business and Professions Code.
- k. "Real property transaction" means a transaction for the sale of real property in which an agent is retained by a buyer, seller, or both a buyer and seller to act in that transaction, and includes a listing or an offer to purchase.
- l. "Single-family residential property" or "single-family residential real property" means any of the following: (1) Real property improved with one to four dwelling units, including a leasehold exceeding one year's duration. (2) A unit in a residential stock cooperative, condominium, or planned unit development. (3) A mobilehome or manufactured home when offered for sale or sold through a real estate broker pursuant to Section 10131.6 of the Business and Professions Code.
- m. "Sell," "sale," or "sold" refers to a transaction for the transfer of real property from the seller to the buyer and includes exchanges of real property between the seller and buyer, transactions for the creation of a real property sales contract within the meaning of Section 2985, and transactions for the creation of a leasehold exceeding one year's duration.
- n. "Seller" means the transferor in a real property transaction and includes an owner who lists real property with an agent, whether or not a transfer results, or who receives an offer to purchase real property of which he or she is the owner from an agent on behalf of another. "Seller" includes both a vendor and a lessor of real property.
- o. "Buyer agent" means an agent who represents a buyer in a real property transaction.
- p. "Buyer representation agreement" means a written contract between a buyer of real property and a buyer agent by which the buyer agent has been authorized by the buyer to provide services set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 10131 of the Business and Professions Code for or on behalf of the buyer for which a real estate license is required pursuant to the terms of the contract.

§2079.14. A seller agent and buyer agent shall provide the seller and buyer in a real property transaction with a copy of the disclosure form specified in Section 2079.16, and shall obtain a signed acknowledgment of receipt from that seller and buyer, except as provided in Section 2079.15, as follows:

- a. The seller agent, if any, shall provide the disclosure form to the seller prior to entering into the listing/representation agreement.
- b. The buyer agent shall provide the disclosure form to the buyer as soon as practicable prior to execution of the buyer's offer to purchase. If the offer to purchase is not prepared by the buyer agent, the buyer agent shall present the disclosure form to the buyer not later than the next business day after receiving the offer to purchase from the buyer.

§2079.15. In any circumstance in which the seller or buyer refuses to sign an acknowledgment of receipt pursuant to Section 2079.14, the agent shall set forth, sign, and date a written declaration of the facts of the refusal.

§2079.17. (a) As soon as practicable, the buyer agent shall disclose to the buyer and seller whether the agent is acting in the real property transaction as the buyer agent, or as a dual agent representing both the buyer and the seller. This relationship shall be confirmed in the contract to purchase and sell real property or in a separate writing executed or acknowledged by the seller, the buyer, and the buyer agent prior to or coincident with execution of that contract by the buyer and the seller, respectively.

- b. As soon as practicable, the seller agent shall disclose to the seller whether the seller agent is acting in the real property transaction as the seller agent, or as a dual agent representing both the buyer and seller. This relationship shall be confirmed in the contract to purchase and sell real property or in a separate writing executed or acknowledged by the seller and the seller agent prior to or coincident with the execution of that contract by the seller.

- c. The confirmation required by subdivisions (a) and (b) shall be in the following form:

\_\_\_\_\_ [Do not fill out] \_\_\_\_\_ is the broker of (check one):  
(Name of Seller Agent, Brokerage firm and license number)

- the seller; or
- both the buyer and seller. (dual agent)

\_\_\_\_\_ [Do not fill out] \_\_\_\_\_ is (check one):  
(Name of Seller Agent and license number)

- is the Seller Agent. (salesperson or broker associate)
- is both the Buyer Agent and Seller Agent. (dual agent)

\_\_\_\_\_ [Do not fill out] \_\_\_\_\_ is the broker of (check one):  
(Name of Buyer Agent, Brokerage firm and license number)

- the buyer; or
- both the buyer and seller. (dual agent)

\_\_\_\_\_ [Do not fill out] \_\_\_\_\_ is (check one):  
(Name of Buyer Agent and license number)

- the Buyer Agent. (salesperson or broker associate)
- both the Buyer Agent and Seller Agent. (dual agent)

- d. The disclosures and confirmation required by this section shall be in addition to the disclosure required by Section 2079.14. An agent's duty to provide disclosure and confirmation of representation in this section may be performed by a real estate salesperson or broker associate affiliated with that broker.

§2079.19. The payment of compensation or the obligation to pay compensation to an agent by the seller or buyer is not necessarily determinative of a particular agency relationship between an agent and the seller or buyer. A listing agent and a selling agent may agree to share any compensation or commission paid, or any right to any compensation or commission for which an obligation arises as the result of a real estate transaction, and the terms of any such agreement shall not necessarily be determinative of a particular relationship.

§2079.20. Nothing in this article prevents an agent from selecting, as a condition of the agent's employment, a specific form of agency relationship not specifically prohibited by this article if the requirements of Section 2079.14 and Section 2079.17 are complied with.

§2079.21. (a) A dual agent may not, without the express permission of the seller, disclose to the buyer any confidential information obtained from the seller.

- b. A dual agent may not, without the express permission of the buyer, disclose to the seller any confidential information obtained from the buyer.

c. "Confidential information" means facts relating to the client's financial position, motivations, bargaining position, or other personal information that may impact price, such as the seller is willing to accept a price less than the listing price or the buyer is willing to pay a price greater than the price offered.'

- d. This section does not alter in any way the duty or responsibility of a dual agent to any principal with respect to confidential information other than price.

§2079.22. Nothing in this article precludes a seller agent from also being a buyer agent. If a seller or buyer in a transaction chooses to not be represented by an agent, that does not, of itself, make that agent a dual agent.

§2079.23. A contract between the principal and agent may be modified or altered to change the agency relationship at any time before the performance of the act which is the object of the agency with the written consent of the parties to the agency relationship.

§2079.24. Nothing in this article shall be construed to either diminish the duty of disclosure owed buyers and sellers by agents and their associate licensees, subagents, and employees or to relieve agents and their associate licensees, subagents, and employees from liability for their conduct in connection with acts governed by this article or for any breach of a fiduciary duty or a duty of disclosure.