

BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

WEST VIRGINIA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION,

Complainant,

V.

**Formal Complaint
No. 26-035-C**

**THOMAS GORMAN
Licensed Real Estate Broker
License No. WVB230300887**

Respondent.

CONSENT DECREE

Respondent Thomas Gorman (“Respondent”) and the West Virginia Real Estate Commission (“Commission”) enter into the following Consent Decree for the purpose of resolving the above-styled complaint. As reflected in this Consent Decree, the parties have reached an agreement and stipulate to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and disposition of this matter. The Commission, having approved such agreement, does hereby Find and Order as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a licensed real estate broker in the State of West Virginia, holding license number WVB230300887.
2. At all times relevant, Respondent was the broker for Sands Investment Group West Virginia, LLC, located in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.
3. On February 17, 2026, the Commission initiated the present Formal Complaint against Respondent following the Commission’s audit of Respondent’s brokerage in November

and December 2025. The audit revealed the following potential violations of the West Virginia Real Estate License Act: Use of unlicensed individuals to conduct real estate brokerage in this state; failure to use the Notice of Agency Relationship Form promulgated by the Commission; failure to properly maintain trust account ledger; and lack of signage at West Virginia office location.

4. Respondent submitted a response to the Formal Complaint on March 2, 2026, in which Respondent detailed his efforts to correct the issues revealed in the audit.

5. At its regular meeting on March 18, 2026, the Commission considered all of the information received on the matter and determined that there was probable cause to conclude that certain aspects of Respondent's above-referenced conduct violated the *West Virginia Real Estate License Act*, and authorized the proposal of this Consent Decree to resolve the matter.

6. For the purposes of this Consent Decree, the Commission acknowledges Respondent's correction efforts and finds that only the use of unlicensed individuals to conduct real estate brokerage in this state, which includes the inclusion of unlicensed individuals on Respondent's marketing material for West Virginia properties, warrants discipline.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to the *West Virginia Real Estate License Act*, West Virginia Code § 30-40-1, et seq., the Commission is charged with the regulation of the practice of real estate brokerage in this State, and, thus, has jurisdiction over this Formal Complaint.

2. In relevant part, West Virginia Code § 30-40-7(l) authorizes the Commission to impose sanctions for violations of the *West Virginia Real Estate License Act*, including, but not limited to, an administrative fine not to exceed \$1,000 per day per violation; probation;

revocation; suspension; restitution; additional education; denial of future license; downgrade of license; reprimand; and/or the return of compensation collected from an injured consumer.

3. The *West Virginia Real Estate License Act* does not recognize agreements by West Virginia licensees that purport to allow agents or brokerages not licensed in this State to practice real estate in this State. *See*, W.Va. Code § 30-40-3 (“It is unlawful for any person to engage in directly or indirectly, or to advertise or hold himself or herself out as engaging in or carrying on the business or act in the capacity of a real estate broker, associate broker, or salesperson within this state without first obtaining a license as provided for in this article. Prior to practicing real estate brokerage in this state, a license shall be obtained from the commission even if the person or entity is licensed in another state and is affiliated or otherwise associated with a licensed real estate broker in this state.”)

4. West Virginia Code § 30-40-19(a)(23) authorizes the Commission to sanction a licensee if he or she “accepts the services of any . . . salesperson who is not properly licensed[.]”

5. Respondent’s above-referenced conduct with respect to the use of unlicensed individuals to practice real estate brokerage in this state violates West Virginia Code §§ 30-40-19(a)(23).

CONSENT

By signing below, Respondent agrees to the following:

1. Respondent has had the opportunity to consult with counsel and executes this Consent Decree voluntarily, freely, without compulsion or duress and mindful that it has legal consequences. No person or entity has made any promise or given any inducement whatsoever to encourage Respondent to make this settlement other than as set forth herein. Respondent

acknowledges that he may pursue this matter through appropriate administrative proceedings and is aware of his legal rights regarding this matter, but intelligently and voluntarily waives such rights.

8.

2. Respondent acknowledges the Findings of Fact set forth above, admits that there is probable cause to conclude that the violations set forth above in the Conclusions of Law occurred, and consents to the entry of the following Order:

ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Respondent shall pay a fine in the amount of \$2,000.00, payable to the State of West Virginia, and submitted to the Commission office within 30 days of entry of this Consent Decree.

2. Respondent shall reimburse the Commission's administrative costs, including attorney fees, in the amount of \$280.00, by check made payable to the State of West Virginia and submitted to the Commission office within 30 days of entry of this Consent Decree.

3. Within six (6) Respondent shall complete three (3) hours of continuing education on the subject of West Virginia License Law. These hours are in addition to, and do not count toward, the hours required for annual renewal of Respondent's license.

4. Any deviation from the requirements of this Consent Decree, without the prior written consent of the Commission, shall constitute a violation of an order of the Commission and may result in further disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension of Respondent's license. The Commission shall immediately notify Respondent via certified mail of

the alleged violation of the Consent Decree. In the event Respondent contests the alleged violation of the Consent Decree, Respondent is entitled to a hearing to challenge the alleged violation.

CONSENT DECREE AGREED TO BY:



THOMAS GORMAN

Date 4/28/2026

ENTERED into the records of the Real Estate Commission this:

4th day of May, 2026.

WEST VIRGINIA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION,

By: 

Keri L. Ferro, Executive Director

