

Listing, and the MLS rules of each of the respondents already provide protections to ensure that a selling broker—a broker who finds a buyer for the property—is compensated for the brokerage service he or she provides.

It is possible, of course, that a buyer of an Exclusive Agency Listing may make the purchase without using a selling broker, but this is true for traditional Exclusive Right to Sell Listings as well. Under the existing MLS rules of each of the respondents that apply to any form of the listing agreement, the listing broker must ensure that the home seller pays compensation to the cooperating selling broker (if there is one), and the listing broker may be liable himself for a lost commission if the home seller fails to pay a selling broker who was the procuring cause of a completed property sale. The possibility of sellers or buyers using the MLS but bypassing brokerage services is already addressed effectively by the respondents' existing rules that do not distinguish between forms of listing contracts, and does not justify the Web Site Policies.

IV. The Proposed Consent Orders

Despite the recent cessation by each of the respondents of the challenged practices, it is appropriate for the Commission to require the prospective relief in the proposed consent orders. Such relief ensures that the respondents cannot revert to the old rules or policies, or engage in future variations of the challenged conduct. The conduct at issue in the current cases is itself a variation of practices that have been the subject of past Commission orders; as noted above, in the 1980s and 1990s, the Commission condemned the practices of several local MLS boards that had banned Exclusive Agency Listings entirely, and several consent orders were imposed.

The proposed orders are designed to ensure that each MLS does not misuse its market power, while preserving the procompetitive incentives of members to contribute to the MLS systems operated by the respondents. The proposed orders prohibit respondents from adopting or enforcing any rules or policies that deny or limit the ability of their respective MLS participants to enter into Exclusive Agency Listings, or any other lawful listing agreements, with sellers of properties. The proposed orders include examples of such practices, but the conduct they enjoin is not limited to those five enumerated examples. In addition, the proposed orders state that, within thirty days after each order becomes final, each respondent shall have conformed its

rules to the substantive provisions of the order. Each respondent is further required to notify its participants of the applicable order through its usual business communications and its Web site. The proposed orders require notification to the Commission of changes in the respondent entities' structures, and periodic filings of written reports concerning compliance with the terms of the orders.

The proposed orders apply to each of the named respondents and entities it owns or controls, including its respective MLS and any affiliated Web site it operates. The orders do not prohibit participants in the respondents' MLS systems, or other independent persons or entities that receive listing information from a respondent, from making independent decisions concerning the use or display of such listing information on participant or third-party Web sites, consistent with any contractual obligations to respondent(s).

The proposed orders will expire in 10 years.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology; American Health Information Community Electronic Health Record Workgroup Meeting

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the eleventh meeting the American Health Information Community Electronic Health Record Workgroup in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., App.).

DATES: November 7, 2006, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Mary C. Switzer Building (330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20201), Conference Room 4090 (please bring photo ID for entry to a Federal building).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: http://www/hhs.gov/healthit/ahic/ehr_main.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The workgroup discussion will include a discussion of critical components as well as other topics relating to an electronic health record.

The meeting will be available via Web cast at http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/ahic/ehr_instruct.html.

Dated: October 12, 2006.

Judith Sparrow,

Director, American Health Information Community, Office of Programs and Coordination, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology; American Health Information Community Consumer Empowerment Workgroup Meeting

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the eleventh meeting of the American Health Information Community Consumer Empowerment Workgroup in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., App.).

DATES: November 6, 2006, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Mary C. Switzer Building (330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20201), Conference Room 4090 (please bring photo ID for entry to a Federal building).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/ahic/ce_main.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Workgroup members will discuss outcomes from the visioning process, and continue discussion on a personal health record.

The meeting will be available via Web cast at http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/ahic/ce_instruct.html.

Dated: October 12, 2006.

Judith Sparrow,

Director, American Health Information Community, Office of Programs and Coordination, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

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