

Unrepresented in a Real Estate Transaction? Know the Risks

Consumers who choose to conduct a real estate transaction without a real estate professional are known as **“unrepresented parties”**. While you aren’t required to have a real estate professional represent you in a real estate transaction, the expert advice, protection, and oversight that comes with being the client of a real estate professional can be very helpful.

If you’re thinking of being an **unrepresented party**, make sure you understand what a real estate professional representing another party to the transaction can and cannot do for you. A real estate professional must be loyal to their client, and will only be able to provide you with limited services.

- Take a moment to read this important consumer protection information from the Real Estate Council of BC.
- Carefully consider the risks before deciding to be unrepresented in a real estate transaction.
- Expert advice from a real estate professional or other professional (such as a lawyer) who represents your interests can help you navigate the real estate process safely. We urge you to consider getting a real estate professional to represent you in a real estate transaction.

What You Need to Know

Real estate professionals must be loyal to their clients and work in their best interests. Keep in mind that as an unrepresented party, real estate professionals involved in this transaction will not be working in *your* interests.

A real estate professional representing someone else in the transaction can only give you limited assistance, such as:

- sharing real estate statistics and general market information
- providing standard real estate contracts and other relevant documents
- helping you fill out a standard real estate contract (but they cannot advise you about what to include in an offer)
- communicating your messages to their client, and from their client to you
- presenting your offers or counteroffers to their client, and from their client to you.



A real estate professional representing someone else in the transaction cannot act in your interests.

The real estate professional cannot:

- give you advice.
- negotiate on your behalf.
- give you any confidential information about their client. (For example, they cannot tell you their client's maximum/minimum price unless their client authorizes them to share this information with you.)

A real estate professional must share all relevant information they know with their client.

This could include:

- your motivation for buying/selling/leasing/renting.
- your maximum/minimum price.
- your preferred terms and conditions.

Be cautious about sharing any confidential information with a real estate professional who represents a client with opposing interests to yours. They must share that information with their client.

Make an Informed Choice

You are receiving this form because you are considering dealing with a real estate professional as an unrepresented party. The real estate professional cannot represent you because they are already representing a client in that same transaction.

As a consumer, it is up to you to decide what kind of working relationship with a real estate professional is best for you.

If you want to be an unrepresented party and use some of the limited services that a real estate professional already representing another party to the transaction can provide, the real estate professional must give you a clear understanding of their obligations to their client and the limitations to the help they can give you.



THE REAL ESTATE COUNCIL OF BC URGES YOU TO SEEK YOUR OWN REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL FOR THIS TRANSACTION.

This disclosure is made to you in compliance with section 5-10.1 of the Rules made under the *Real Estate Services Act*.

Instructions

Consumers: Please complete the optional fields below to indicate that you received this consumer protection information.

Real Estate Professional: Complete and sign to indicate you have provided this disclosure to the real estate consumer. Promptly submit this form to your brokerage.

Mandatory Real Estate Professional Confirmation**I confirm that I have:**

- given the unrepresented party information about the duties and responsibilities I owe my client.
- given the unrepresented party information about the risks of being unrepresented in a real estate transaction.
- given the unrepresented party information about the limited assistance I can provide them.
- advised the unrepresented party to seek independent professional advice.

Name: _____

Brokerage: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Notes: _____

Optional Consumer Confirmation**I confirm that the real estate professional:**

- gave me information about the duties and responsibilities they owe their client.
- gave me information about the risks of being an unrepresented party in a real estate transaction.
- gave me information about the limited assistance they can provide me.
- advised me to seek independent professional advice.

Consumer Name: _____

Consumer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Consumer Name: _____

Consumer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Section 8-4(a) of the Rules made under the Real Estate Services Act requires a brokerage to maintain a copy of all written disclosures and any related acknowledgements under Division 2 Part 5 of the Rules.

CONSUMER PRIVACY NOTICE

A real estate professional is providing you with this form because they are required to do so by the Rules made under the *Real Estate Services Act* (the "Rules"). **You are not required to provide your name or signature on this form.** However, the real estate professional you are dealing with may ask you to do so in order to document that they have provided you with this form as required by the Rules. The real estate professional will provide a copy of this form (including any personal information you have provided such as your name or signature) to their brokerage. The Real Estate Council of BC, the provincial body responsible for regulating real estate professionals, may review this form for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the Rules.

If you have any questions regarding the Real Estate Council of BC's collection and use of your personal information, please contact:

Privacy Officer, Real Estate Council of BC, 900-750 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC, V6C 2T8, telephone: 604.683.9664 or toll-free at 1.877.683.9664; email: privacy@recbc.ca

A COPY OF THIS DISCLOSURE IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED TO THE REAL ESTATE COUNCIL OF BC UNLESS IT IS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED.

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The Real Estate Council of BC regulates real estate professionals to protect consumers. Visit us online to find information on real estate transactions, ask us a question, file a complaint or an anonymous tip. **1.877.683.9664 | ANONYMOUS TIPLINE: 1.833.420.2400 | info@recbc.ca | www.recbc.ca**

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