

**193E—11.3(543B) Brokerage agreements.** All brokerage agreements are written and cannot be assigned, sold, or otherwise transferred to another broker without the express written consent of all parties to the original agreement, unless the terms of the agreement state otherwise. Upon termination of association or employment with the principal broker, the affiliated broker associate or salesperson cannot take or use any written brokerage agreements secured during the association or employment. Said brokerage agreements remain the property of the principal broker and may be canceled only by the broker and the client.

**11.3(1)** Every written brokerage agreement includes, at a minimum, the criteria set forth in Iowa Code section 543B.57 and the following provisions:

*a.* All listing contracts and all brokerage agency contracts contain a statement disclosing the brokerage policy on cooperating with and compensating other brokerages whether the brokerage is acting as subagent or the other parties' agent in the sale, lease, rental, or purchase of real estate, including whether the brokerage intends to share the compensation with other brokerages. Such disclosure serves to inform the client of any policy that would limit the participation of any other brokerage; and

*b.* All listing contracts and all brokerage agency contracts comply with Iowa real estate law and commission rules including, but not limited to, rules 193E—11.1(543B) and 193E—11.4(543B) and 193E—Chapter 15.

**11.3(2)** No licensee makes or enters into a brokerage agreement that specifies a net sale, lease, rental, or exchange price to be received by an owner and the excess to be received by the licensee as a commission.

**11.3(3)** The taking of a net brokerage agreement is unprofessional conduct and a practice that is harmful or detrimental to the public and constitutes a violation of Iowa Code sections 543B.29(3) and 543B.34(8).

**11.3(4)** Duration of relationship. The relationships commence at the time of the brokerage agreement and continue until closing of the transaction or performance or completion of the agreement by which the broker was engaged within the term of the agreement. If the transaction does not close, or the agreement for which the broker was engaged is not performed or completed for any reason, the relationship ends at the earlier of the following:

*a.* Any date of expiration agreed upon by the parties; or

*b.* Any termination by written agreement of the parties.

**11.3(5)** Obligation terminated. In addition to any continuing duty or obligation provided in the written agreement or pursuant to Iowa law and commission rules, a broker or brokerage engaged as a seller's or landlord's agent, buyer's or tenant's agent, subagent, or dual agent and affiliated licensees have the duty after termination, expiration, completion, or performance of the brokerage agreement to:

*a.* Account for all moneys and property related to and received during the engagement; and

*b.* Keep confidential all information received during the course of the engagement which was made confidential by request or instructions from the engaging party or is otherwise confidential by statute or rule.

**11.3(6)** Compensation. In any real estate transaction, the broker's compensation may be paid by the seller, the buyer, the landlord, the tenant, a third party, or the sharing or splitting of a commission or compensation between brokers.

*a.* Payment of compensation is not to be construed to determine or establish an agency relationship. The payment of compensation to a broker does not determine whether a brokerage relationship has been created between any broker and a seller, landlord, buyer, or tenant paying such compensation.

*b.* Written permission of the client is needed as follows:

(1) A seller's or landlord's agent may share the commission or other compensation paid by such seller or landlord with another broker, with the written consent of the seller or landlord.

(2) A buyer's or tenant's agent may share the commission or other compensation paid by such buyer or tenant with another broker, with the written consent of the buyer or tenant.

(3) Without the written approval of the client, a seller's or landlord's agent cannot propose to the buyer's or tenant's agent that such seller's or landlord's agent may be compensated by sharing compensation paid by such buyer or tenant.

(4) Without the written approval of the client, a buyer's or tenant's agent cannot propose to the seller's or landlord's agent that such buyer's or tenant's agent may be compensated by sharing compensation paid by such seller or landlord.

*c.* A broker may be compensated by more than one party for services in a transaction if the parties have consented in writing to such multiple payments prior to entering into a contract to buy, sell, lease, or exchange.

*d.* A licensee cannot accept, receive or charge an undisclosed commission for a transaction.

*e.* A licensee cannot give or pay an undisclosed commission to any other licensee for a transaction, except payment for referrals to other licensees, including franchise affiliates, to provide real estate brokerage services, if there is no direct or beneficial ownership interest of more than 1 percent in the business entity providing the service.

*f.* A licensee cannot pay any undisclosed rebate to any party to a transaction.

*g.* A licensee cannot give any undisclosed credit against commission due from a client or licensee to any party to a transaction.

*h.* A licensee cannot accept, receive or charge any undisclosed payments for any services provided by any third party to any party to a transaction including, but not limited to, payments for procuring insurance or for conducting a property inspection related to the transaction.

*i.* The provisions of these rules do not apply to a gratuitous gift, such as flowers or a door knocker, to a buyer or tenant subsequent to closing and not promised or offered as an inducement to buy or lease, as long as any client relationship has terminated.

*j.* The provisions of these rules do not apply to a free gift, such as prizes, money, or other valuable consideration, to a potential party to a transaction or lease prior to the parties' signing a contract to purchase or lease and not promised or offered as an inducement to sell, buy, or lease, as long as no client relationship has been established with the buyer or lessee.

**11.3(7)** Solicitation of brokerage agreements. A licensee cannot advise, counsel, or solicit a brokerage agreement from a seller or buyer, or landlord or tenant, if the licensee knows, or acting in a reasonable manner should have known, that the seller or buyer, or landlord or tenant, has contracted with another broker for the same brokerage services on an exclusive basis.

*a.* This rule does not preclude a broker from entering into a brokerage agreement with a seller or buyer, or landlord or tenant, when the initial contact is initiated by the seller or buyer, or landlord or tenant, and the licensee has not directly or indirectly solicited the discussion, provided the brokerage agreement does not become effective until the expiration or release of the current brokerage agreement.

*b.* A brokerage agreement cannot be assigned, sold, or otherwise transferred to another broker without the express written consent of all parties to the original agreement.

**11.3(8)** Any commission or fee in any brokerage agreement is fully negotiable among the parties to that brokerage agreement. Once the parties to a brokerage agreement have agreed to a commission or fee, no licensee other than a party to that brokerage agreement attempts to alter, modify, or change or induce another person to alter, modify, or change a commission or fee that has previously been agreed upon without the prior written consent of the parties to that brokerage agreement.

**11.3(9)** A commission split agreement between brokers needs to be a separate document and not included in the purchase agreement. A purchase agreement should not be made contingent upon the selling broker's receiving a certain percentage of the listing broker's commission.

[ARC 7773C, IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24]