

Idaho Real Estate Commission

November 2008

Putting your license on inactive status? -- No CE is required to renew inactive, but you must meet the CE requirement before you reactivate your license. Be sure to renew your license every 2 years so it doesn't expire and terminate.

Licensees -- go online to renew your license, view your continuing education records and E&O status, and change your address.

Designated brokers can renew a company license, change a company address, add and remove associates, and view the CE and E&O records for all associates in the office.

All changes made online happen in real time so you don't have to wait! Please use our website and online services whenever possible. It saves you time and helps IREC save money, which helps keep your license fees low.

If you need help to register, log in, or use the new IREC online services, please contact one of our friendly staff members at (208) 334-3285 or (866) 447-5411 (toll free in Idaho).

HOT TOPIC Keeping Client Information Safe:

Recently, an Idaho lender went out of business. They failed to pay rent on their mini-storage building, which contained old lending files. When the contents were auctioned off, the winning bidder simply left all of the files outside a recycling center!

The files contained Social Security Numbers, birth dates, tax returns, and other personal information. This is exactly what identity thieves look for! It could have been a very terrible situation for the clients whose information was compromised, if the documents had fallen into the wrong hands.

This is a reminder that all licensees have a duty to account for property of their customers and clients with reasonable skill and care. This duty extends to confidential information or documents, no matter where they are stored.

Brokers must keep transaction files for 3 years after the year a transaction concluded. Some sales associates also keep copies of files and documents for their own use. Current files should be kept in a secure location. Old files should be incinerated or shredded. Taking files to the landfill won't work identity thieves scour landfills for confidential information on a regular basis.

Many real estate licensees also keep files in mini storage buildings, and sometimes brokerages go out of business. If a broker closes his office, he has a continuing duty to make sure his transaction files are maintained for the appropriate time and then properly destroyed.

Let's ensure the consumers of Idaho real estate have their personal data protected from identity thieves!

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Questions about the Idaho Real Estate Commission: info@IREC.idaho.gov

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