



## **SUMMARY OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF SELLERS AND PURCHASERS UNDER THE VIRGINIA RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY DISCLOSURE ACT**

Virginia's Residential Property Disclosure Act (the "Act") (Virginia Code §55-517 et seq.) requires real estate licensees to inform the parties to a transaction with whom they deal of their rights and obligations under the Act. The licensee providing this information to you is prepared to answer any questions you may have about what the Act means to you, and to furnish you with a copy of the Act at your request.

The Act applies to sales, exchanges, installment sales, or leases with option to purchase of residential real property improved with one to four dwelling units. The Act does not apply to: transfers pursuant to court order (in estate administration, pursuant to writ execution, foreclosure, bankruptcy, condemnation, or by decree for specific performance); transfers among co-owners; transfers among spouses; transfers among parents or grandparents and their children or grandchildren; tax sales; transfers involving a government or housing authority; or (subject to certain exceptions discussed below) sales of new homes.

The Act requires sellers to furnish purchasers with a disclosure statement developed by the Virginia Real Estate Board. The statement must be furnished to the purchaser before final ratification of the purchase contract or the purchaser may terminate the contract or sue later for damages.

A seller, in furnishing a disclosure statement, makes no representations or warranties as to the condition of the property or any improvements located thereon. Purchaser is advised to exercise whatever due diligence purchaser deems necessary including a certified home inspection, as defined in §54.1-500, in accordance with the terms and condition of the purchase contract, but in any event prior to settlement.

A builder of a new home must disclose to a purchaser in writing all known material defects which would constitute a violation of any applicable building code. In addition, for property located wholly or partially in any locality comprising Planning District 15 (the City of Richmond, the Town of Ashland, and the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent and Powhatan), the builder (or seller, if the owner is not the builder) shall disclose in writing whether mining operations have previously been conducted on the property or the presence of any abandoned mines, shafts or pits. This disclosure does not abrogate any warranty or other obligations the builder may have to the purchaser, and must be made (i) when selling a completed home, before acceptance of the purchase contract, or (ii) when selling a home before or during construction, after issuance of a certificate of occupancy. No disclosure or statement of any kind is required if there is no such information to disclose. Any required disclosure may be, but need not be, contained in the disclosure statement described in this Summary.

A purchaser must be furnished with a disclosure statement signed by the seller prior to final ratification of the purchase contract. If such statement is not received by final ratification, the purchaser's sole remedy shall be to terminate the purchase contract by sending written notice to the seller either by hand delivery or U. S. Mail, postage prepaid, at or prior to the earliest of (i) 3 days after receiving the statement (if delivered in person); (ii) 5 days after postmark (if sent by U. S. Mail, postage prepaid); (iii) settlement; (iv) occupancy by purchaser; (v) purchaser's making written application for a mortgage loan if such application discloses that the termination right ends upon application; (vi) purchaser's execution of a written waiver of the right to terminate (such waiver may not be in the purchaser contract).

If the seller fails to provide the required disclosure statement, the contract may be terminated as set forth above. If the seller fails to provide the required disclosure statement, or the seller misrepresents, willfully or otherwise, the information required in such disclosure, except as a result of information provided by the locality in which the property is located, the purchaser may bring an action to recover actual damages suffered as a result of such violation. No purchaser of property located in a noise zone designated on the official zoning map of the locality as having a day-night average sound level of less than 65 decibels shall have a right to maintain an action for such damages. Any such action must be brought within one year of the date the purchaser received the disclosure statement. If no disclosure statement was provided to the purchaser, the action must be brought within one year of the date of settlement, or purchaser's occupancy of the property by lease with option to purchase.

Purchasers should be aware that neither a seller nor a real estate licensee is obligated to disclose facts or occurrences which have no effect on the physical structure of the property, its physical environment, or the improvements located thereon, or the

fact that the property was the site of a homicide, felony, or suicide. Furthermore, it is a violation of federal law to disclose whether a previous occupant of the property was afflicted with the HIV virus or has AIDS.

Purchasers should be aware that in providing a disclosure statement:

(a) The seller is making no representations with respect to any matters that may pertain to parcels adjacent to the subject property. Purchasers should exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary with respect to adjacent parcels in accordance with the terms and conditions of the purchase contract, but in any event prior to settlement on the subject property.

(b) The seller makes no representations as to any matters that pertain to whether the provisions of any historic district ordinance affect the property. Purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary with respect to any historic district designated by the locality pursuant to §15.2-2306, including review of any local ordinance creating such district or any official map adopted by the locality depicting historic districts, in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the purchase contract, but in any event prior to settlement on the property.

(c) The seller makes no representations with respect to whether the property contains any resource protection areas established in an ordinance implementing the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (§10.1-2100 et seq.) adopted by the locality where the property is located pursuant to §10.1-2109. Purchasers should exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary to determine whether the provisions of any such ordinance affect the property, including review of any official map adopted by the locality depicting resource protection areas, in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the purchase contract, but in any event prior to settlement on the property.

(d) The seller makes no representations with respect to information on any sexual offenders registered under Chapter 23 (§19.2-387 et seq.) of Title 19.2. Purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary with respect to such information, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the purchase contract, but in any event prior to settlement. Such information may be obtained by contacting the local police department or the Department of State Police, Central Criminal Records Exchange, at (804) 674-2000, or on the Internet at [www.vsp.state.va.us/vsp.html](http://www.vsp.state.va.us/vsp.html).

(e) The seller represents that there are no pending enforcement actions pursuant to the Uniform Statewide Building Code (§36-97 et seq.) that affect the safe, decent and sanitary living conditions of the property of which the seller has been notified in writing by the locality, nor any pending violation of the local zoning ordinance that the seller has not abated or remedied within the time period set out in the written notice of violation from the locality or established by a court of competent jurisdiction, except as set out in the disclosure statement.

If the property is located in a locality in which a military air installation is located, the seller must provide purchasers with a disclosure statement setting forth whether the property is located in a noise zone or accident potential zone, or both, if so designated on the official zoning map of the locality. Such disclosure shall state the specific noise or accident potential zone, or both, in which the property is located.

Please acknowledge receiving a copy of this summary by signing below.

Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

## RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

### NOTICE TO SELLER AND PURCHASER

The Virginia Residential Property Disclosure Act (§55-517 et seq. of the Code of Virginia) requires the owner of certain residential real property, whenever the property is to be sold or leased with an option to buy, to furnish to the purchaser a RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT stating the owner makes the following representations as to the real property. Certain transfers of residential property are excluded from this requirement (see §55-518).

Property Address/

Legal Description: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned owner(s) of the real property described above makes no representations or warranties as to the condition of the real property or any improvements thereon, and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser(s) deems necessary including obtaining a certified home inspection, as defined in § 54.1-500, in accordance with the terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event, prior to settlement on the parcel of residential real property.

The undersigned owner(s) makes no representations with respect to any matters that may pertain to parcels adjacent to the subject parcel, and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser(s) deems necessary with respect to adjacent parcels in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event, prior to settlement on the parcel of residential real property.

The undersigned owner(s) makes no representations to any matters that pertain to whether the provisions of any historic district ordinance affect the property, and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser deems necessary with respect to any historic district designated by the locality pursuant to § 15.2-2306, including review of any local ordinance creating such district or any official map adopted by the locality depicting historic districts, in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event, prior to settlement on the parcel of residential real property.

The undersigned owner(s) makes no representations with respect to whether the property contains any resource protection areas established in an ordinance implementing the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (§ 10.1-2100 et seq.) adopted by the locality where the property is located pursuant to § 10.1-2109, and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser(s) deems necessary to determine whether the provisions of any such ordinance affect the property, including review of any official map adopted by the locality depicting resource protection areas, in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event, prior to settlement on the parcel of residential real property.

The undersigned owner(s) makes no representations with respect to information on any sexual offenders registered under Chapter 23 (§ 19.2-387 et seq.) of Title 19.2, and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser(s) deems necessary with respect to such information, in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event, prior to settlement pursuant to that contract.

The undersigned owner(s) represents that there are no pending enforcement actions pursuant to the Uniform Statewide Building Code (§36-97 et seq.) that affect the safe, decent, and sanitary living conditions of the real property described above of which the owner has been notified in writing by the locality, nor any pending violation of the local zoning ordinance which the violator has not abated or remedied under the

zoning ordinance, within a time period set out in the written notice of violation from the locality or established by a court of competent jurisdiction, except as disclosed on this statement.

---

---

**Additional Written Disclosure Requirements**

**Section 55-518.B.** contains other disclosure requirements for transfers involving the first sale of a dwelling because the first sale of a dwelling is exempt from the disclosure requirements listed above. The builder of a new dwelling shall disclose in writing to the purchaser thereof all known material defects which would constitute a violation of any applicable building code.

In addition, for property that is located wholly or partially in any locality comprising Planning District 15, the builder or owner, if the builder is not the owner of the property, shall disclose in writing whether the builder or owner has any knowledge of (i) whether mining operations have previously been conducted on the property or (ii) the presence of abandoned mines, shafts, or pits, if any.

The disclosures required by this subsection shall be made by a builder or owner (i) when selling a completed dwelling, before acceptance of the purchase contract or (ii) when selling a dwelling before or during its construction, after issuance of a certificate of occupancy. Such disclosure shall not abrogate any warranty or any other contractual obligations the builder or owner may have to the purchaser. The disclosure required by this subsection may be made on this disclosure form. If no defects are known by the builder to exist, no written disclosure is required by this subsection.

**Section 55-519.1** contains a disclosure requirement for properties located in any locality in which there is a military air installation.

**Section 32.1-164.1:1** contains a disclosure requirement regarding the validity of septic system operating permits.

**See also the Virginia Condominium Act (§55-79.39 et seq.), the Virginia Cooperative Act (§55-424 et seq.) and the Virginia Property Owners' Association Act (§55-508 et seq.).**

The owner(s) acknowledge having carefully examined this statement and further acknowledge that they have been informed of their rights and obligations under the Virginia Residential Property Disclosure Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner                                      Date                                      Owner                                      Date

The purchaser(s) acknowledge receipt of a copy of this disclosure statement and further acknowledge that they have been informed of their rights and obligations under the Virginia Residential Property Disclosure Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Purchaser                                      Date                                      Purchaser                                      Date