

Letter of the Law

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Fair Housing: Conciliation Agreement and Multiple Listing Services - 67 Agreed Upon Words

A conciliation agreement has been entered into between HUD, the Fair Housing Council of Oregon and the Portland Metropolitan Area Boards and Associations of REALTORS® Multiple Listing Service, Inc., (RMLS™) regarding words in the RMLS™ database that potentially violate the Fair Housing Act.

As part of the agreement, RMLS™ has agreed to conduct biweekly computerized searches of the "Remarks" section of all active listings to detect any of the words or phrases that the parties agreed RMLS™ shall not use and to delete any such words. The list of agreed-upon words is below.

Please be cautious in how you use this list of words.

The list was the product of a negotiated settlement and not a ruling by a court or HUD, and HUD has not endorsed this list. Words not appearing on this list could be used to discriminate. Conversely, words appearing on the list will not always violate the law.

WORDS THAT WILL NOT BE USED IN THE RMLS™

able bodied
adult living
adult community
adults only
African
agile
alcoholics, no
Asian
bachelor
blacks, no
board approval required
Catholic
Caucasian
Chicano
Chinese
children, no
colored
couple
couples only
crippled, no
deaf, no
drinkers, no
employed, must be
empty nesters
(ethnic references)
handicapped, not for

healthy only
Hispanic
impaired, no
independent living
Indian
Irish
integrated
Jewish
landlord (description of)
Latino
married
mature couple
mature individual
mature person(s)
membership approval required
mentally handicapped, no
mentally ill, no
Mexican-American
Mormon Temple
mosque
(nationality)
newlyweds
(#of) children
older person(s)
one child
one person
Oriental
physically fit
Polish
Puerto Rican
retarded, no
seasonal worker, no
shrine
singles only
single person
smoker(s), no
Soc. Sec. Ins. (SSI), no
tenant (description of)
unemployed, no
white
white only

Thanks to the Portland Metropolitan Area Boards and Associations of REALTORS® Multiple Listing Service for not including a confidentiality clause in the conciliation agreement so that others may learn from their experience.

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