

From: flbarb@fldreams.com [mailto:flbarb@fldreams.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2005 2:55 PM
To: ATR-Real Estate Workshop
Subject: MLS is not a public utility!

The MLS, as far as I am concerned is set up for professional realtors to share their listings. Period. It is not set up for everyone and anyone to get their listings on it. As licensed agents, we have a great deal of responsibility to our clients; we are held to the highest standards; we are fingerprinted, analyzed for our criminal background, tested and charged a good deal of money to begin working as an agent; in short, it is a professional field governed by the state. When MLS allows ANYONE to list their property on the internet, it invades our privileged territory and makes a joke out of the whole idea of professional realtors.

Brokers, such as [name omitted], taking a small amount of money to list an owner's property on our MLS without any representation should be stopped. Why? Since the listing will say to call the owner, the agent who wants to show that listing is now dealing directly with the owner. There is no protection against any liability that may be incurred due to the owner's negligence or failure to perform. It is an unprofessional and dangerous way to transact a serious business transaction. Clients come to realtors trusting that they will do their job to the best of their ability. The only sure way to do this is to deal with another agent, an agent who has been trained, is licensed and is responsible.

Owners have MANY different websites to use to sell their home. For Sale by Owner is one that comes quickly to mind. At least, when the public goes to that site, they know that they are dealing with another owner and may or may not get "ripped off." It is a trade off for their protection.

Stop the nonsense. If anyone can sell their home using our MLS, what are we doing with rules and regulations up the ying yang? We might as well eliminate everything that the state has tried to do to protect the public!

My 2 cents,
Barb

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