Department of Real Estate Services

**Real Estate Law Enforcement:** Investigates complaints, disciplines licensees for violations of law, and issues orders to stop unlicensed activity.

**Complaint Resolution:** Responds to consumer concerns and questions. Assists members of the real estate industry by serving as a facilitator, acting to resolve conflicts, and mitigating and preventing violations of the Real Estate Law.

**Financial Literacy:** Educates and informs consumers about homeownership and the path to becoming a homeowner.

**Licensing:** Ensures licensees meet eligibility requirements and are tested for a standard of competence. Provides license status information through DRE website and by phone or mail.

**Speakers Bureau:** Provides knowledgeable speakers to consumer and industry groups.

**Subdivision Review:** Through the issuance of a public report, ensures that subdividers deliver to buyers what was agreed to at the time of sale.

**Consumer Recovery Account:** Provides limited relief through a victim’s fund to members of the public who have been defrauded by a real estate licensee.

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Contact DRE

To contact the California Department of Real Estate, call (877) 373-4542 toll-free for assistance in English or Spanish.

Department of Real Estate District Offices

**Sacramento**  
(Principal Office)  
1651 Exposition Boulevard  
Sacramento, CA 95815

**Los Angeles**  
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 350  
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1105

**Fresno**  
2550 Mariposa Mall,  
Suite 3070  
Fresno, CA 93721-2273

**Oakland**  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 702  
Oakland, CA 94612-1462

**San Diego**  
1350 Front Street, Suite 1063  
San Diego, CA 92101-3687

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PREVENTING REAL ESTATE FRAUD  
How to Protect Yourself and Your Home

DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE  
1651 Exposition Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
Public Information Line: (877) 373-4542  
Fax: (916) 263-8943  
www.dre.ca.gov
Fraud Protection Checklist

- Before working with someone in a real estate matter, check his or her license status by going to the Department of Real Estate (DRE), www.dre.ca.gov, or by calling DRE’s Consumer Information phone number at (877) 373-4542.
- Never pay cash for anything, ever. Credit cards and checks are more secure.
- Always get a signed receipt for any payments.
- Research and understand the real estate transaction process.
- Do not cut corners. Take the time to ask questions and to do the necessary research and homework.
- Do not be intimidated—you are the consumer, which means you are the boss.

Remember: If it’s too good to be true, it probably is.

Other Resources

California Office of the Attorney General
www.oag.ca.gov

State Bar of California
www.calbar.ca.gov

California Department of Business Oversight
www.dbo.ca.gov

California Department of Consumer Affairs
www.dca.ca.gov

Federal Trade Commission
www.ftc.gov

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
www.hud.gov

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
www.fdic.gov

Check the DRE website, www.dre.ca.gov, for consumer alerts and information.