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New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW MEXICO REAL ESTATE COMMISSION SUSPENSION OF SUBMISSION OF FINGERPRINTS DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR LICENSE RENEWALS ONLY

Due to the public health emergency declared by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham in Executive Order 2020-004, and to the potential lack of access to businesses and other public safety locations for fingerprinting required by NMSA 1978, Section 61-29-4.4, the New Mexico Real Estate Commission (Commission) will implement the following procedures through the Regulation and Licensing Department, Boards and Commissions staff:

- 1. Temporary suspension of the statutorily required fingerprint submission will be granted only on a case-by-case basis by the Commission.
- 2. All requests for temporary suspension of submission of fingerprint cards shall be made in writing to the Commission at the following email address:

<u>RLDRealEstate.Comsn@state.nm.us</u> or to via U. S. Mail to the address listed above.

- 3. All requests will be reviewed for approval by the Commission Chair. The renewal applicant will receive written approval or denial from the Commission Chair.
- 4. Licensee must acknowledge in writing, the receipt of the approval or denial. Denials will not be subject to review by any other entity.
- 5. Criteria for review and the approval of temporary suspension shall be based upon all or one of the following:
 - a. medical exception, health and safety of the renewal applicant;
 - b. potential for economic harm to the applicant;
 - c. Physical location of the renewal applicant;
 - d. lack of resources for travel to open location; and
 - e. health and safety related to community spread etc.

- 6. After the renewal applicants written request is approved in writing, if all other license renewal requirements are met, the license will be renewed without the required fingerprint submission.
- 7. When the public health emergency is lifted, Boards and Commissions staff will send out a notice to licensees stating that the licensee has one (1) month from the date the emergency is lifted, to submit their fingerprints to the Commission or be subject to disciplinary action.

For initial (first time) applicants, the requirement to submit fingerprints pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 61-29-4.4 will **NOT** be suspended during the public health emergency. The Boards and Commissions staff will work with the Department of Public Safety and other public and private agencies to communicate with applicants regarding where fingerprinting may still available. Initial applicants must follow the procedures in the Boards and Commissions public notice regarding COVID-19 dated March 16, 2020. The public notice is located at the following Internet link:

http://www.rld.state.nm.us/uploads/files/BCD/BCD%203_16_2020%20COVID-19%20Public%20Announcement.pdf