

GUIDELINES FOR THE OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT
(Standard Form 2-T)

GENERAL:

1. Type this form if possible; otherwise print or write legibly in ink.
2. Fill in all blank spaces. If any space is not used, enter "N/A" or "None" unless instructed otherwise in the form.
3. Be precise. Avoid the use of abbreviations, acronyms, jargon, and other terminology that may not be clearly understood.
4. Every change, addition or deletion to an offer or contract must be initialed and should be dated by both Buyer and Seller.
5. If numerous changes need to be made or if the same item (such as the purchase price) is changed more than once, consider using Form 4-T to amend the contract or complete a new contract form to avoid possible confusion.
6. Review with the parties all contract provisions. Advise the parties to consult their respective attorneys if they have any questions about the legal consequences of the contract or any particular provision.

1. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS:

- (a) **Seller:** Fill in the complete legal name of each seller. Do not use shorthand names, abbreviations, or combine spouse's names. If Seller is a corporation, limited liability company, trust, or other legal entity, the entity should be named as Seller and a duly authorized officer, manager, trustee, or other legal representative of the entity should sign this Agreement on the entity's behalf.

Dead people cannot own property. If the Property is part of an estate, review the Estate Property Flow Chart (Form 10-T) and consult with an attorney to determine who Seller is. All parties with an ownership interest (see Form 10-T when owner is deceased) must sign as Seller and all parties named as Buyer must sign as Buyer.

If Seller(s) is married, both Seller and their spouse always must sign the contract. This is true even if the Property is owned by only one spouse. The non-owner spouse holds a potential "marital life estate" and a "right to dissent from the will" under North Carolina law and must sign the deed in order for the other spouse to convey clear title. The signature of the non-owner spouse on the contract will obligate that spouse to join in signing the deed. If the married Sellers have executed and recorded a pre-nuptial agreement, post-nuptial agreement, or a free trader agreement consult a North Carolina real estate attorney to determine who must sign.

- (b) **Buyer:** As with filling in the Seller line above, fill in the complete legal name of Buyer.
- (c) **Property:** Fill in street address of the Property if there is one (NOT the mailing address, which may be different from the street address). In addition to a street address, include a legal description sufficient to identify and distinguish the Property from all other property. Fill in all applicable blanks as completely as possible.

Indicate whether the Property will include a manufactured (mobile) home(s) or a septic lot, boat slip, garage, parking space, or storage unit by checking the appropriate box. If the Property includes multiple parcels, mark the Additional Parcels checkbox and be sure to attach exhibit(s). Attach the Additional Provisions Addendum as appropriate (Form 2A11-T)

Plat reference: If the Property is a lot in a subdivision or a condominium unit, include the lot number or condominium unit number, the block or section number of the subdivision or condominium, the name of subdivision or condominium, and recording reference for the plat as recorded in the Register of Deeds office.

PIN/PID: CAUTION, although helpful, reference to a PIN/PID alone is generally not an adequate legal description.

Other description: A survey attached as an Exhibit or an abbreviated description such as 10+/- acres at the northeasterly quadrant of the intersection of Route 41 and Jackson Boulevard may be helpful. A copy of Seller's deed may be attached as an Exhibit. Do not attempt to complete a metes and bound description as an Exhibit. A North Carolina real estate attorney should be consulted if a metes and bounds description is necessary or if the information available is inadequate to clearly describe the Property.

Reference to a recorded deed: If known, insert the book number and page number of Seller's deed as recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds office.

- (d) **Purchase Price:** Insert the total amount of the purchase price in dollars on the first line. When the other remaining seven are added together, they should equal the same amount as the purchase price on the first line.

Due Diligence Fee: Insert the amount of the non-refundable fee Buyer will pay for the right to terminate during the Due Diligence Period. The Due Diligence Fee is immediately due and payable and is the property of Seller on the Effective Date. However, due and payable is not the same as delivery. Buyer must deliver the Due Diligence Fee to Seller no later



than the next banking day following the Effective Date. See paragraph 1(j). If Buyer does not, then Seller may issue a written demand for payment. See paragraph 6 for more information regarding the written demand process when Buyer fails to timely deliver the Due Diligence Fee or Initial Earnest Money Deposit.

Agents should make clear that this fee is only refundable in limited cases, such as those presented in paragraphs 8(h) or 11(a). If Buyer wishes to make an argument that Seller or the listing agent made a misrepresentation, and the issue cannot be worked out by consent, then buyer agents should recommend Buyer seek legal counsel. Note that if the parties agree the Due Diligence Fee will be paid by electronic or wire transfer, Seller agrees to cooperate in effecting the transfer, and Buyer is responsible for any costs associated with the transfer.

Initial Earnest Money Deposit: Insert the amount of the Initial Earnest Money Deposit, if any, in dollars on the third line, insert the name of the Escrow Agent, and check the appropriate boxes for method of payment. Any Initial Earnest Money Deposit should be paid to the Escrow Agent.

Additional Earnest Money Deposit: If an Additional Earnest Money deposit is to be given at a later date, insert the amount of that deposit in dollars and the due date, and check the appropriate box for method of payment. Any Additional Earnest Money Deposit should be delivered no later than 5 p.m. on the due date specified. A personal check is not a specified method for payment of an Additional Earnest Money Deposit and may be rejected by the Seller. Unlike the Initial Earnest Money Deposit, time is “of the essence” with respect to the payment of any additional earnest money deposit.

Assumption of existing loan: Insert the approximate principal amount of Seller’s existing loan on the Property as of Settlement on the fifth line, and complete and attach the current standard Loan Assumption Addendum (Form 2A6-T).

Seller Financing: Insert the dollar amount of the financing from Seller on the sixth line, and complete and attach the current standard Seller Financing Addendum (Form 2A5-T).

Building Deposit: If Buyer is paying Seller a building deposit in connection with improvements to be constructed on the Property by Seller, insert the amount of the Building Deposit on the seventh line, and complete and attach the New Construction Addendum (Form 2A3-T).

Balance of Purchase Price: Insert the dollar amount of the balance due from Buyer on the eighth line. This amount should equal the purchase price minus any dollar amounts inserted in second through seventh lines. In the case of a counteroffer, which alters any figure in subparagraph (d), all altered figures must be initialed and should be dated by all parties. Care should be taken to be certain that the figures in the second through the eighth lines, when added, always equal the purchase price set forth in the first line.

- (e) **Seller Concessions:** Insert the fixed dollar amount Seller will pay as a credit to Buyer at Closing. This amount may also be expressed as a percentage of the purchase price. Include in this amount any FHA/VA lender and inspection costs (seller mandated fees) that cannot be paid by Buyer. Seller Concessions may be used for any expense incurred by Buyer in the transaction. If Seller will not pay any such expenses, insert “0” or “N/A” in the blanks. *Note that Seller’s payment of any such amount is subject to approval by Buyer’s lender.*
- (f) **Due Diligence Period:** *DO NOT INSERT “N/A” IN ANY OF THE BLANKS IN THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.* These checkboxes and blanks must be filled to define when Buyer’s Due Diligence Period ends. If no time is specified, then the Due Diligence Period will have no end date, which means the Due Diligence Period will extend until Closing.
- (g) **Settlement Date:** Settlement and Closing are not the same thing and are defined on page 2 of the Contract. ***Keys are not always given at Settlement.*** Delivery of possession may occur at Closing, unless possession is delivered at another time because Buyer is taking possession prior to Closing or Seller is remaining in possession of the Property after Closing.
- (m) **Escrow Agent:** Insert the name of the Escrow Agent designated to hold the Initial Earnest Money Deposit and/or the Additional Earnest Money Deposit, not the name of an individual Broker (unless it is to be held by a Broker who is a sole practitioner). Note that the name indicated here should also be indicated on the "Firm" line at the bottom of the form under the acknowledgment of receipt of the earnest money. Any earnest money check should be made payable to the designated Escrow Agent.
- (n) **Home Warranty:** If a home warranty is not to be provided by Seller, check the first box. If a home warranty is to be paid for by Seller, check either the second or third box as appropriate, insert maximum cost to be paid and identify warranty company if applicable. Note that the amount inserted includes the amount of any sales tax.

(p) **Closing:** The residential real estate closing is a process typically including review and interpretation of the contract of sale, abstracting and certification of title and application for appropriate title insurance, preparation, review and interpretation of financial accountings and various legal documents, assuring compliance with mortgage lender loan instructions and recordation and cancellation of documents in accordance with law. According to the NC State Bar Rules of Professional Responsibility Authorized Practice Advisory Opinion (2002-1), a person who is not licensed to practice law in North Carolina and is not working under the direct supervision of an active member of the State Bar may not perform functions or services that constitute the practice of law. Under the express language of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§84-2.1 and 84-4, a non-lawyer who is not working under the direct supervision of an active member of the State Bar would be engaged in the unauthorized practice of law if he or she performs any of the following functions for one or more of the parties to a residential real estate transaction:

- (i) preparing or aiding in preparation of deeds, deeds of trust, lien waivers or affidavits, or other legal documents;
- (ii) abstracting or passing upon titles; or
- (iii) advising or giving an opinion upon the legal rights or obligations of any person, firm, or corporation.

Under the express language of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-4, it is unlawful for any person other than an active member of the State Bar to hold himself or herself out as competent or qualified to give legal advice or counsel or as furnishing any services that constitute the practice of law. Additionally, under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-5, a business entity, including a corporation or limited liability company, may not provide or offer to provide legal services or the services of attorneys to its customers even if the services are performed by licensed attorneys employed by the entity.

Nonlawyers who undertake such responsibilities, and those who retain their services, should also be aware that (1) the North Carolina State Bar retains oversight authority concerning complaints about activities that constitute the unauthorized practice of law; (2) the North Carolina criminal justice system may prosecute instances of the unauthorized practice of law; and (3) that N.C. Gen. Stat. §84-10 provides a private cause of action to recover damages and attorneys' fees to any person who is damaged by the unauthorized practice of law against both the person who engages in unauthorized practice and anyone who knowingly aids and abets such person.

So long as a nonlawyer does not engage in any of the activities referenced above, or in other activities that likewise constitute the practice of law, a nonlawyer may:

- (1) present and identify the documents necessary to complete a North Carolina residential real estate closing, direct the parties where to sign the documents, and ensure that the parties have properly executed the documents; or
- (2) receive and disburse the closing funds.

Although these limited duties may be performed by nonlawyers, this does not mean that the nonlawyer is handling the closing. Additionally, nonlawyers may not advertise or represent to lenders, buyers/borrowers, or others in any manner that suggests that the nonlawyer will:

- (i) handle the "closing;"
- (ii) provide the legal services associated with a closing, such as providing title searches, title opinions, document preparation, or the services of a lawyer for the closing; or
- (iii) "represent" any party to the closing. The lawyer must be selected by the party for whom the legal services will be provided.

(o) **Special Assessments:** Paragraph 1(o) excludes from the definition of "Special Assessments" ad valorem taxes on real property and recurring governmental service fees (such as annual solid waste, storm water management and similar fees) levied in connection with ad valorem taxes on real property.

2. **FIXTURES AND EXCLUSIONS:** The Property includes appurtenances and improvements on the Property. Fixtures and personal property in this paragraph and paragraph 3 are also included.

(a) **Fixtures Are Included in Purchase Price:** The term "fixture" in this paragraph is not defined and is controlled by state law. Any fixture under state law is included as part of the Property in the Contract. North Carolina uses the Total Circumstances Test to determine whether an attachment is a fixture and therefore part of the land. The test examines four factors: (1) the intention of the person installing the attachment; (2) the permanent or temporary nature of the attachment; (3) the way the property was adapted to accommodate the attachment; and (4) the relationship of the person installing the attachment.

(b) **Specified Items:** Any item on the list in subparagraph (b) that is presently on the Property—including both traditional and "smart" versions and any exclusively dedicated, related equipment and remote-control devices—is considered a fixture and will be included in the sale unless the item is identified in subparagraphs (d) and/or (e). It is not necessary to cross out items that are listed in subparagraph (b) but are not on the Property. Not every bulleted item is a "fixture" under NC law, but it is defined as one by the Contract and included as part of the sale.

(c) **Unpairing and Deleting Data:** IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT SELLER UNPAIR SMART DEVICES AND DELETE THEIR PERSONAL DATA AS REQUIRED IN THIS PARAGRAPH. Seller will be exposed to serious criminal and civil liability if Seller uses any device post-Closing in order to listen to verbal communications or watch video of anyone on the Property without notice and consent. If there are any video/audio/surveillance devices left on the Property, then Seller must make sure they no longer have access to those devices.

- (d) **Items Leased or Not Owned:** Insert in the blank space in subparagraph (d) any item presently on the Property which may be considered a fixture but which is leased or not owned by Seller. Liens for solar panels, HVAC systems, and other major improvements will need to be paid by Seller at Closing unless excluded in this paragraph or addressed in a custom addendum.
- (e) **Other Items That Do Not Convey:** Insert in the blank space in subparagraph (e) any item on the Property which may be considered a fixture but which will not be included in the sale. If in doubt as to whether an item that the parties agree will be excluded from the sale is or is not a fixture, it is advisable to list the item to avoid a later dispute.

3. PERSONAL PROPERTY: List all items of personal property that are to be included in the sale. (EXAMPLES: Curtains, draperies, etc.; free standing appliances such as a refrigerator or a microwave oven; fireplace tools; window air conditioner; etc.) It is advisable to list any item included in the sale about which some dispute may arise. Care should be taken to ascertain that any personal property included in the sale is owned by Seller and is not merely rented or leased. Form 320-T may be used to facilitate the sale of personal property that a lender may not want itemized in this paragraph.

4. BUYER'S DUE DILIGENCE PROCESS: The right of Buyer to conduct Due Diligence is one of the most important elements of the Contract. Buyer is given the opportunity to investigate and examine all aspects of the Property and the transaction in order to decide whether to proceed with or terminate the transaction. If Buyer terminates the Contract prior to the expiration of the Due Diligence Period, Buyer may obtain a refund of the Earnest Money Deposit and any Additional Earnest Money Deposit paid prior to the expiration of the Due Diligence Period, but not any Due Diligence Fee (unless otherwise provided in the Contract or by law). Buyer and Buyer's Broker should give careful consideration as to what types of Due Diligence should be performed during the Due Diligence Period.

- (a) **Loan:** Buyer's Due Diligence should include investigating the availability of any desired or required financing. Buyer should understand that depending on the length of time Buyer and Seller agree that the Due Diligence Period will last, it is possible or even likely Buyer will not know with certainty that the loan will be approved prior to the end of the Due Diligence Period. In such case, Buyer should make a decision based on the information Buyer has from Buyer's lender at that time whether to terminate or proceed with the transaction. If Buyer proceeds with the transaction and the lender does not ultimately approve the loan, Buyer would lose the Earnest Money Deposit if Buyer were unable to close without the loan. By making the loan qualification process a part of Buyer's Due Diligence, Buyer and Seller have the ability to fairly balance the risk that the Contract may not close due to Buyer's loan not being approved by shifting that risk to Buyer at a mutually agreeable date. The date that the risk shifts to Buyer is the date that the Due Diligence Period expires.

(b) **Property Investigation:**

- (ii) **Review of Documents:** Purchasers take title to property subject to the restrictive covenants and are bound to follow them, even if they did not actually know the property was subject to restrictive covenants. Once restrictions are properly imposed upon a property, they "run with the land" and are binding on the owner and all subsequent purchasers. No owner or purchaser can use the property for any purpose that violates the restrictions. During the Due Diligence Period, Buyer should review any document that may limit the use of the Property or govern the Property owner or obligate the Property owner to a financial payment other than the purchase price, taxes, and governmental assessments. If such documents are not available from either the listing Broker or Seller, then an attorney should be consulted by Buyer during the Due Diligence Period.
- (iv) **Appraisals:** The Property being appraised at or equal to the Purchase Price is not a condition to Buyer's performance under the Contract except in transactions involving FHA/VA financing. If the appraised value of the Property is an important factor in determining whether a Buyer wishes to proceed with the purchase or whether necessary or desired financing is obtainable, Buyer should obtain and review an appraisal of the Property prior to the expiration of the Due Diligence Period.
- (v) **Survey:** A survey of the Property can reveal important information about the Property, including setback lines and possible violations thereof, encroachments on to the Property or from the Property onto adjacent property, boundaries, the existence of utility, storm drainage and other easements which may prohibit construction of improvements within their areas, and many other important details about the physical nature of the Property. Lenders often tell buyers that they do not need a survey in order to close. That is because lenders are able to obtain title insurance coverage on their lenders' policies insuring against title defects which would be revealed by a survey. No such coverage is available to a buyer or borrower under an owners' policy of title insurance. In order to obtain title insurance coverage against defects which would be revealed by a current survey of the Property, Buyer should be encouraged to go to the expense of obtaining a new survey. Brokers should encourage Buyer to consult with a real estate attorney to understand the advantages of obtaining a new survey.
- (vii) **Flood /Wetland/Water Hazard:** Buyer should determine whether the Property and/or any permanent improvements on the Property are wholly or partially located in a Special Flood Hazard Area and whether it is advisable for Buyer, or whether Buyer's lender may require Buyer, to obtain flood hazard insurance. A definition of the term "Special Flood Hazard Area" can be obtained from the website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency at www.fema.gov. Information about the state of North Carolina's Floodplain Mapping Program is available online at <http://www.ncfloodmaps.com>.

(e) **Buyer's Obligation to Repair Damage:** Buyer's obligation to repair damage under this Paragraph is not necessarily limited to circumstances where the damage is caused by the negligent or willful acts or omissions of Buyer or Buyer's agents and contractors. For example, assume that during an inspection of the exterior siding of a house located on the Property, Buyer's home inspector falls from his ladder, resulting in gouge marks in the siding. Assume further that the fall was caused by an unforeseen failure in the ladder rather than the inspector's negligence. Buyer should still be obligated to repair the damaged siding. On the other hand, Buyer should not be responsible for repairing pre-existing damage discovered during the inspection/investigation of the Property by Buyer and Buyer's agents and contractors. Using the example set forth above, if during his inspection, the inspector probes the siding with a screwdriver and discovers underlying wood rot on a portion of the siding, Buyer should not be obligated to repair the affected siding.

5. BUYER REPRESENTATIONS: Buyer Representations are statements of current facts that Seller may reasonably rely upon in deciding whether to enter into the Contract. Representations made "to the best of Buyer's knowledge" include only facts known to Buyer at the time the representation is made.

(a) **Funds to Complete Purchase:** Check the applicable box disclosing whether Buyer intends to pay cash or obtain a loan or other funds in order to purchase the Property. If a Broker working with Buyer knows or reasonably should know under the circumstances that Buyer must obtain a loan in order to purchase the Property, it is a material fact under the real estate licensing law that must be disclosed by the Broker because it is a fact relating directly to the ability of Buyer to complete the transaction with Seller. If Buyer does in fact need a first and second mortgage loan or other funds, check the appropriate boxes and describe the loan(s)/other funds. Buyer's obligations under the Contract are not conditioned upon Buyer being able to obtain the desired financing. Buyer should determine whether acceptable or necessary financing is available to Buyer prior to expiration of the Due Diligence Period.

(b) **Other Property:** Check the box indicating whether Buyer does or does not have to sell or lease other real property in order to qualify for a new loan or to complete the purchase. **No part of this paragraph creates a contingency in the Contract. An attorney-drafted custom addendum must be used if the Buyer wishes the transaction to be contingent on the sale of their current property.**

If a Broker working with Buyer knows or reasonably should know under the circumstances that Buyer must sell other property in order to purchase the Property, it is a material fact under the real estate licensing law that must be disclosed by the Broker because it is a fact relating directly to the ability of Buyer to complete the transaction with Seller. If Buyer does need to sell in order to qualify for a new loan or to complete the purchase, identify the property to be sold in the blank space provided. Then check the appropriate box to indicate whether the property to be sold is or is not currently under contract. If the property to be sold is under contract, a copy of the contract on the property should accompany the offer if it has not already been provided to the seller. Sellers are strongly encouraged to obtain and review the contract on the buyer's other property prior to accepting the offer. If the property to be sold is not currently under contract, check the appropriate box to indicate whether the property is currently listed or will be listed with a real estate broker, or if the buyer is attempting to sell the property without a real estate broker.

(d) **Property Disclosure:** Indicate the status of Buyer's receipt of the required N.C. Residential Property Disclosure Statement by checking the appropriate box. If the transaction is exempt from the N. C. Residential Property Disclosure Act, then enter one of the following: (1) Court Ordered Transfer; (2) Borrower to Lender Transfer; (3) Fiduciary Transfer; (4) Co-owner to Co-owner Transfer; (5) Within Family Transfer; (6) Spouse to Spouse Divorce Decree Transfer; (7) Tax Sale; (8) Governmental Transfer; (9) First Sale of Dwelling Never Inhabited; (10) Lease with Option to Purchase (where lessee occupies or intends to occupy the dwelling) (Caution: See warning under "Use of Form"); (11) Buyer and Seller Agreement; or (12) Property to be transferred consists of less than 1 or more than 4 residential units. *See North Carolina General Statutes Section 47E-2 for a complete description of exemptions.*

(e) **Mineral and Oil and Gas Rights Mandatory Disclosure:** Indicate the status of Buyer's receipt of the required N.C. Mineral and Oil and Gas Rights Mandatory Disclosure Statement by checking the appropriate box. If the transaction is exempt from the N. C. Residential Property Disclosure Act, then enter one of the following: (1) Court Ordered Transfer; (2) Borrower to Lender Transfer; (3) Fiduciary Transfer; (4) Co-owner to Co-owner Transfer; (5) Within Family Transfer; (6) Spouse to Spouse Divorce Decree Transfer; (7) Tax Sale; (8) Governmental Transfer; or (9) Property to be transferred consists of less than 1 or more than 4 residential units. *See North Carolina General Statutes Section 47E-2 for a complete description of exemptions.*

6. BUYER OBLIGATIONS: Among other obligations in this section, Buyer must timely deliver money. As stated right above the signature lines of the form, the contract is valid even if monies are not timely paid by Buyer. It is not an automatic breach of the Contract if Buyer does not timely pay. Rather, Seller must first make a written demand, which can be made with Form 355-T. This section then outlines Buyer's right to cure within one banking day.

(e) **Information for Governmental Reporting:** FinCEN, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, is a bureau of the Department of the Treasury. Its purpose is to investigate and prosecute financial crimes, such as money laundering and terrorism financing. It collects and analyzes financial transaction data for this purpose, among others. This section of Form 2-T addresses FinCEN's Residential Real Estate Rule, but it is broad enough to apply to other government reporting requirements from other agencies, if applicable. The Residential Real Estate Rule requires certain professionals involved in real estate closings, including closing attorneys, to submit reports to FinCEN regarding certain ~~non-financed (cash)~~ transfers of residential real estate to legal entities or trusts. The rule aims to increase transparency in residential real estate and combat money laundering.

7. **SELLER REPRESENTATIONS:** Seller Representations are statements of current facts that Buyer may reasonably rely upon in deciding whether to enter into the Contract. Representations made "to the best of Seller's knowledge" include only facts known to Seller at the time the representation is made.

- (a) **Ownership:** Check the applicable box disclosing how long Seller has owned the Property or whether Seller owns the Property at the time Seller executes the Contract. Seller's term of ownership may affect Buyer's ability to obtain mortgage financing. Some mortgage lenders require proof that the property is not being *flipped* from one purchaser at a lower price to another purchaser at a higher price within a short period of time. Any lender issues concerning Seller's term of ownership should be resolved during the Due Diligence Period.
- (b) **Lead-Based Paint:** If the Property is residential property built prior to 1978, the current standard Lead-Based Paint or Lead-Based Paint Hazard Addendum must be attached.
- (c) **Owners' Association(s) and Dues:** If the Property is subject to regulation by one or more owners' associations, the name, address, and telephone number of the president of the association or the association manager and the association's web site address should be inserted in the blank spaces provided. The amount of the association's regular assessments (dues) should also be inserted in the blank space provided.
- (d) **Fuel Tank(s)/Fuel:** Check the appropriate box whether there is/is not a fuel tank(s) on the Property. If there is a fuel tank(s) on the Property, check the appropriate boxes regarding the number of tanks, whether the tank is currently in use, as well as the ownership, location, type of fuel, and name and contact information of the fuel provider for each tank. Note that any tank owned by Seller will be included in the sale unless excluded in paragraph 2(d) or 2(e) and that although Seller may use any fuel in a tank through Settlement, Seller may not otherwise remove the fuel or resell it.

8. **SELLER OBLIGATIONS:** The Contract imposes numerous obligations upon Seller with respect to the transaction. If Seller fails to materially comply with such obligations or materially breaches the Contract, Buyer may terminate the Contract, receive a refund of any Earnest Money Deposit and Due Diligence Fee paid, and obtain reimbursement from Seller for its reasonable costs incurred in conducting Due Diligence without affecting any other remedies available to Buyer.

- (f) **Designation of Lien Agent, Payment and Satisfaction of Liens:** For Property for which a building or other permit has been issued, the Seller is required to have appointed a Lien Agent subject to the following two (2) exceptions: No lien Agent need be appointed when (1) the anticipated cost of the project permitted is expected to be under \$40,000.00; or (2) if the improvements were made to a single-family residence which is occupied by the Seller. The Designation of Lien Agent is made on the website LiensNC.com, where potential lien claimants may file a Notice to Lien Agent that they are providing labor, services, material or rental equipment to the Property for which a lien may be claimed if they are not paid. A Closing Attorney will search the website for notices and will require lien waivers from each potential lien claimant who has filed such a Notice. Therefore, to prevent delays in Closing, a Seller and Seller's Agent should promptly furnish to Buyer, the Buyer's Agent and the Buyer's Closing Attorney a copy of any Appointment of Lien Agent made by or on behalf of Seller (which may be printed off the LiensNC.com website). If a Seller fails to comply with the statutory requirement to designate a Lien Agent, it may not be possible to obtain title insurance on the Property and complete Closing in accordance with the Contract.
- (h) **Governmental Compliance:** It is Buyer's burden to show that the Property is not in compliance with governmental regulations. If Buyer wishes to exercise their rights under this section, they must first give Seller prompt notice and then allow Seller time to cure. Because this section is a condition of the Contract, a Property's being out of governmental compliance will rarely result in a breach of contract by Seller.
- (i) **Deed, Taxes, and Fees:** The last blank should only be used if the deed is to be made to someone other than those persons or entities listed in (i)-(iv). If a name is inserted in the blank, it must be the exact, legal name(s) of Buyer(s) as it will appear in the deed. Buyer and Seller should note that using phrases such as "*as directed by Buyer*" or "*Buyer(s), or assigns*" may conflict with both (i)-(iv) and the restrictions on assignment of the Contract set forth in Paragraph 15. If the parties wish to permit assignment of the Contract, consultation with a North Carolina real estate attorney is recommended.
- (n) **Home Warranty:** If a home warranty is not to be provided by Seller, check the first box. If a home warranty is to be paid for by Seller, check either the second or third box as appropriate, insert maximum cost to be paid and identify warranty company if applicable. Note that the amount inserted includes the amount of any sales tax.

10. **TAXES ON REAL PROPERTY:** Paragraph 10(a) provides that ad valorem taxes on real property together with recurring governmental service fees levied with such taxes (such as annual solid waste, storm water management and similar fees) shall be prorated as of the date of Settlement on a calendar year basis unless otherwise agreed.

11. CONDITION OF PROPERTY AT CLOSING/RISK OF LOSS: Since the risk of loss does not pass to Buyer until Closing occurs, Seller should consult with an attorney and Seller's insurance carrier before agreeing to allow Buyer to take possession at Settlement or any other time prior to the recordation of the deed. In the event of a casualty loss prior to the time the deed is recorded, the Buyer may be able to terminate the contract and obtain a refund of the Due Diligence Fee and Earnest Money Deposit. Therefore, Seller should be careful not to cancel Seller's existing hazard insurance policy until such time as the deed has been recorded and the net closing proceeds are available to Seller. A Buyer allowing Seller to remain in possession after Closing should also consult with Buyer's attorney and insurance carrier to determine that Buyer has adequate coverage in the event of a loss during the period of Seller's possession after Closing. Buyer should obtain hazard insurance coverage for the Property effective 12:01a.m. as of the date of Settlement.

12. DELAY IN SETTLEMENT/CLOSING: If either party anticipates a delay in Settlement and Closing, that party should try to negotiate a written extension from the other party.

13. POSSESSION: The contract assumes possession will be delivered at Closing. "Closing" is defined in Paragraph 1 and requires that Settlement and all steps included in the process of Closing, including recording of the deed, be completed. Closing will not occur at the same time, and may not even occur on the same date as Settlement. In selecting the place and time of Settlement, Buyer should consider that completion of Closing, including recording, is necessary before possession may be delivered unless the parties otherwise agree. If possession by a certain date is critical, Settlement should be scheduled on a date and at a time that will allow sufficient time for Closing to be completed on or before that date. If the parties agree to transfer possession to Buyer prior to recording of the deed, then check the applicable box and attach a Buyer Possession Before Closing Agreement (Form 2A7-T) or consult a NC real estate attorney for an appropriate agreement. If the parties agree to permit Seller to remain in possession after recording of the deed, then check the applicable box and attach a Seller Possession After Closing Agreement (Form 2A8-T) or consult a NC real estate attorney for an appropriate agreement. Also consider the paragraph entitled "Risk of Loss." If the Property is being sold subject to an existing lease, check the applicable box and consider adding the Rental/Income/Investment Property provision in the Additional Provisions Addendum (form 2A11-T) or the Vacation Rental Addendum (Form 2A13-T) to the Contract, as the case may be.

14. ADDENDA: Check any standard addenda that may be attached to the contract, and indicate by name any attorney or party drafted addenda to be attached, if applicable. Any addenda referred to here should be properly identified, signed by the parties, and attached to each original of the contract. Any copy of the contract must always have all addenda attached. **UNDER NORTH CAROLINA LAW, REAL ESTATE BROKERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO DRAFT ADDENDA TO THIS CONTRACT.**

If an addendum is not attached to the Contract when it should be, or if an addendum is not signed but attached to the Contract, then agents should confer with their broker-in-charge. If the issue cannot be worked out by consent, then an attorney should be consulted.

16. TAX DEFERRED EXCHANGE: If either or both of the parties may be considering entering into a tax-free exchange of like kind property in connection with the transaction, consultation with qualified attorneys or tax advisors is recommended.

19. ENTIRE AGREEMENT/RECORDATION: The parties should make sure that all elements of the contemplated Contract are embodied in the Contract and all addenda attached thereto and made a part thereof.

21. EXECUTION: It is recommended that multiple originals or counterparts be executed and that each party receive an original or counterpart with original signatures. A fully executed copy of the complete contract and all addenda should be delivered to Buyer's prospective lender(s).

SIGNATURES AND DATES: All parties with an ownership interest (see Form 10-T when owner is deceased) must sign as Seller and all parties named as Buyer must sign as Buyer. *If Seller(s) is married, both Seller and their spouse always must sign the contract.* This is true even if the Property is owned by only one spouse. The non-owner spouse holds a potential "marital life estate" and a "right to dissent from the will" under North Carolina law and must sign the deed in order for the other spouse to convey clear title. The signature of the non-owner spouse on the contract will obligate that spouse to join in signing the deed. If the married Sellers have executed and recorded a pre-nuptial agreement, post-nuptial agreement, or a free trader agreement consult a North Carolina real estate attorney to determine who must sign. If a party (Buyer or Seller) is a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership or other legal entity, a duly authorized officer, manager, general partner or other legal representative of such entity should sign on behalf of such party. If a party is a trust, the duly authorized trustee(s) of such trust should sign on behalf of such trust.

Indicate the dates when the parties actually sign the Offer to Purchase and Contract.

NOTICE INFORMATION: Insert the notice addresses for Buyer and Seller, including current mailing and e-mail addresses and fax numbers. Note that in accordance with Paragraph 20, the parties agree that any written notice or communication may be transmitted to either the client or the agent via any mailing address, e-mail address, or fax number set forth in this section. Thus, it is very important that correct contact information be inserted. *At least one notice address for each party or their agent must be inserted.* If a party does

not have an e-mail address or fax machine, or if a party does not desire written notice or communication to be transmitted to the party's e-mail address and/or fax machine, insert "N/A" or "None" in the relevant blank. REALTORS® representing a party to a transaction are reminded that if the other party to the transaction is exclusively represented, REALTORS® generally must conduct all dealings concerning the transaction with the other party's broker and not the other party (see Standard of Practice 16-13 of the REALTOR® Code of Ethics).

Enter the names of the individual selling and listing Brokers, their respective individual license numbers and firm names and firm license numbers, and check the appropriate agency representation box for each. Note that this procedure is *confirmation* of a prior disclosure of the agency relationship and in no way should be considered as an initial disclosure of agency relationship. Signatures are not necessary. Also enter the notice addresses for the selling and listing Brokers, including current mailing and e-mail addresses and fax numbers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF MONIES:

LISTING AGENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF DUE DILIGENCE FEE: This section should be completed if the Offer to Purchase and Contract provides for payment of a Due Diligence Fee. If any Due Diligence Fee is delivered to the listing agent by whatever means, this section should be completed and signed by the individual listing agent or by some other authorized representative of the listing agent's Firm. If the Due Diligence Fee is delivered directly to the Seller rather than the listing agent, this section should not be completed.

SELLER ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF DUE DILIGENCE FEE: This section should be completed if the Offer to Purchase and Contract provides for payment of a Due Diligence Fee even if the listing agent has already acknowledged receipt of the Due Diligence Fee. When any Due Diligence Fee is delivered by whatever means to Seller, whether by the listing agent, selling agent, buyer or otherwise, this section should be completed and signed by Seller if possible.

ESCROW ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INITIAL EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT: This section should be completed if the Offer to Purchase and Contract provides for payment of an Initial Earnest Money Deposit. The "Firm" should be the same as the firm indicated as Escrow Agent in Paragraph 1(i). The individual signing for the firm serving as Escrow Agent on the "By:" line must be associated with that firm. The "Firm" may be a real estate brokerage firm, a law firm, or another entity. If the listing agent's firm will hold the Earnest Money Deposit, this usually will be the individual listing Broker. Although the contract states that the Earnest Money Acknowledgment section is not a material part of the Offer to Purchase and Contract, if the Escrow Agent named in Paragraph 1(i) of the contract is unable or unwilling to serve in such capacity, the Escrow Agent's name should be replaced with the name of a substitute Escrow Agent agreeable to Buyer and Seller using Form 4-T.

ESCROW ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF (ADDITIONAL) EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT: This section should be completed if the Offer to Purchase and Contract provides for payment of an Additional Earnest Money Deposit. The "Firm" should be the same as the firm indicated as Escrow Agent in Paragraph 1(i). The individual signing for the firm serving as Escrow Agent on the "By:" line must be associated with that firm. The "Firm" may be a real estate brokerage firm, a law firm, or another entity. If the listing agent's firm will hold the Earnest Money Deposit, this usually will be the individual listing Broker. Although the contract states that the Earnest Money Acknowledgment section is not a material part of the Offer to Purchase and Contract, if the Escrow Agent named in Paragraph 1(i) of the contract is unable or unwilling to serve in such capacity, the Escrow Agent's name should be replaced with the name of a substitute Escrow Agent agreeable to Buyer and Seller using Form 4-T.

OTHER NOTES: The Offer to Purchase and Contract is the most important document in any real estate sale and it is imperative that it accurately reflects the entire agreement of Buyer and Seller. An improper contract may have substantial adverse effects on the rights and interests of the parties. These guidelines include general comments about contract completion as well as suggestions and explanations regarding selected contract provisions with which Brokers often have difficulty. However, situations will frequently arise that are not covered by these Guidelines. **All Paragraph numbers and Subparagraph numbers and letters used in these Guidelines correspond to the paragraph numbers and subparagraph numbers and letters used in the Offer to Purchase and Contract.** Brokers should always remember that a North Carolina real estate attorney should be consulted any time there is uncertainty regarding the proper completion of this important form.

USE OF FORM: The Offer to Purchase and Contract form is jointly approved by the NC REALTORS® and the NORTH CAROLINA BAR ASSOCIATION, as Form 2-T, for use only by their members. ~~The version of this form with the REALTOR® logo is produced by NCAR for use by its members, only as printed. The version of this form without the REALTOR® logo is produced for the NORTH CAROLINA BAR ASSOCIATION and may be used, only as printed, by attorneys and Brokers.~~

This form may be used in a variety of real estate sales transactions, but it was developed primarily for use in the sale of existing single-family residential properties. Do not use this form as a substitute for a lease-option agreement, lease-purchase agreement or installment land contract. Also, if the sale involves the construction of a new single-family dwelling, use the current standard New Construction

Addendum (Form 2A3-T), the Offer to Purchase and Contract (New Construction) (Form 800-T), or consult a NC real estate attorney for an appropriate form.