

Generally speaking, the Real Estate Seller Disclosure Law requires that before an agreement of sale is signed, the seller in a residential real estate transfer must make certain disclosures regarding the property to potential buyers in a form defined by the law. A residential real estate transfer is defined as a sale, exchange, installment sales contract, lease with an option to buy, grant or other transfer of an interest in real property where **NOT LESS THAN ONE AND NOT MORE THAN FOUR RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS** are involved. The Law defines a number of exceptions where the disclosures do not have to be made:

1. Transfers that are the result of a court order.
2. Transfers to a mortgage lender that result from a buyer's default and subsequent foreclosure sales that result from default.
3. Transfers from a co-owner to one or more other co-owners.
4. Transfers made to a spouse or direct descendant.
5. Transfers between spouses that result from divorce, legal separation, or property settlement.
6. Transfers by a corporation, partnership or other association to its shareholders, partners or other equity owners as part of a plan of liquidation.
7. Transfer of a property to be demolished or converted to non-residential use.
8. Transfer of unimproved real property.
9. Transfers by a fiduciary during the administration of a decedent estate, guardianship, conservatorship or trust.
10. Transfers of new construction that has never been occupied when:
 - a. The buyer has received a one-year warranty covering the construction;
 - b. The building has been inspected for compliance with the applicable building code, if none, a nationally recognized model building code; and
 - c. A certificate of occupancy or a certificate of code compliance has been issued for the dwelling.

In addition to these exceptions, disclosures for condominiums and cooperatives are limited to the seller's individual unit(s). Disclosures regarding common areas or facilities are not required, as those elements are already addressed in the laws that govern the resale of condominium and cooperative interests.

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