

Buyer Beware: Watch What You Click When Shopping for a Home!

By Fran Flanagan | Flanagan Jones Group

Buyer's agents usually reach out to Listing agents to make appointments to see listed properties. Sometimes, the buyer reaches out to tour a home directly through a third-party site or app. On those property descriptions, there often is an icon with an agent's name and a small photo of that agent. The buyer is asked if they would like to make an appointment to see the property and they click that button - and then all of a sudden, this third-party agent is "representing" them. The buyer thinks they are just going to see a house they are interested in....



LITTLE DID THEY KNOW!

What buyers don't realize is that these agents are usually not the listing agent, have not seen the property and cannot answer basic auestions about it. Often, they are agents who pay these services or are salaried by these

third-party companies to get the leads that come from buyers clicking on appointment requests. What should be concerning to a buyer is the lack of transparency.

As listing agents, we welcome strong buyer's agents. In addition to neighborhood and pricing information, there's a tremendous

level of expertise needed to execute a proper offer, and to navigate the world of counter offers. It saddens us to see qualified buyers losing out on opportunities because of the agent that they are using.

The most important thing you as a buyer can do is to carefully vet your selection. Here are three questions to ask:

- 1. Can you provide us with comps of recent sales for the property we are going to visit?
- 2. Can you provide us with your recent sales in the neighborhood?
- 3. Can you provide us with the names and contact information of two or three past clients so that we can check you out?

Buyer representation is an important topic today. Don't throw away your choice for the best representation by unsuspectingly clicking on an icon.

The climate of the real estate market is changing at a faster rate than ever, increasing the importance of having the proper representation. Knowledge, integrity and commitment are the three key traits that your agent should hold to get you through a seamless transaction process. And remember, the difference between a stressful sale and a successful one starts with an agent you can trust.

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The difference between a successful sale and a stressful one starts with agents you can trust.

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