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Warning about Internet Copyrighted Pictures

Please be aware that pictures found on the internet are not necessarily free for you to use. Many are copyrighted and if you use a copyrighted picture you may very well be required to pay a fee for its usage. Many of these pictures are of homes and neighborhoods that you might wish to use in your marketing of properties, but be careful to verify whether the picture is, in fact, copyrighted.

The main source of these pictures on the internet is Getty Images or Getty Rights Managed images. They are not the only source of copyrighted pictures on the internet but they have a very large database of these copyrighted pictures. And they are very vigilant in checking to see who is using their copyrighted photos. Very often agents use these photos innocently and without knowledge that they are copyrighted but that is not an excuse that will allow the agent to escape paying a fee for their usage.

In addition, many professional photographers copyright their pictures and if an agent is caught using one of these copyrighted pictures they may be subject to a lawsuit for copyright infringement. These lawsuits can be expensive to defend and the damages can be substantial.

Please check your websites to make sure there are no copyrighted pictures. Even if you have a web designer design your website for you, you need to verify that the web designer did not use any copyrighted pictures on the site.

The safest way to insure that you are not in violation of any copyright issues is to take your own photos of your listings. If you have a professional photographer take pictures for you, it is important to determine who owns these pictures and exactly how you are allowed to use these pictures to avoid any copyright issues.