



NEVADA STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN & RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

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**NOTICE REGARDING DRAFTING FIRMS OFFERING SERVICES
FOR PROJECTS LOCATED IN NEVADA**

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The Nevada State Board of Architecture, Interior Design and Residential Design (Board) is charged with protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public. As part of this mission, the board wishes to educate business owners who may unknowingly be violating the law by providing services that fall under the practice of architecture, registered interior design or residential design.

The following definitions are provided to give a clear understanding of the three disciplines that are regulated by this agency.

NRS 623.023 "Practice of architecture" defined.

The definition of the "practice of architecture" consists of rendering of services embracing the scientific, esthetic and orderly coordination of processes which enter into the production of a completed structure which has as its principal purpose human habitation or occupancy, or the utilization of space within and surrounding the structure, performed through the medium of plans, specifications, administration of construction, preliminary studies, consultations, evaluations, investigations, contract documents, and advice and direction.

NRS 623.025 "Practice of residential design" defined.

The "practice of residential design" consists of rendering services embracing the scientific, esthetic or orderly coordination of processes which enter into:

1. *The production of a completed:*
 - (a) *Single-family dwelling unit; or*
 - (b) *Multifamily dwelling structure that does not exceed two stories in height and is composed of not more than four units in that structure; and*
2. *The use of space within and surrounding the unit or structure, performed through the medium of plans, specifications, administration of construction, preliminary studies, consultations, evaluations, investigations, contract documents, and advice and direction.*

NRS 623.0225 "Practice as a registered interior designer" defined.

"Practice as a registered interior designer means the rendering, by a person registered pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 623.180, of services to enhance the quality and function of an interior area of a structure designed for human habitation or occupancy. The term includes:

1. *An analysis of:*
 - (a) *A client's needs and goals for an interior area of a structure designed for human habitation or occupancy; and*
 - (b) *The requirements for safety relating to that area;*

2. *The formulation of preliminary designs for an interior area designed for human habitation or occupancy that are appropriate, functional and esthetic;*
3. *The development and presentation of final designs that are appropriate for the alteration or construction of an interior area of a structure designed for human habitation or occupancy;*
4. *The preparation of contract documents for the alteration or construction of an interior area of a structure designed for human habitation or occupancy, including specifications for partitions, materials, finishers, furniture, fixtures and equipment;*
5. *The collaboration in the completion of a project for the alteration or construction of an interior area of a structure designed for human habitation or occupancy with professional engineers or architects who are registered pursuant to the provisions of Title 54 of NRS;*
6. *The preparation and administration of bids or contracts as the agent of a client; and*
7. *The review and evaluation of problems relating to the design of a project for the alteration or construction of an area designed for human habitation or occupancy during the alteration or construction and upon completion of the alteration or construction.*

NRS 623.330(1)(g) Exemptions; civil and criminal liability. states in part;

The following persons are exempt from the provisions of Chapter 623.

Any person who prepares drawings of the layout of materials or furnishings used in interior design or provides assistance in the selection of materials or furnishings used in interior design, **if the preparation or implementation of those drawings or the installation of those materials or furnishings is not regulated by any building code or other law, ordinance, rule or regulation governing the alteration or construction of a structure.**

In order for a draftsman to lawfully prepare plans which fall within the definition of the above disciplines, the draftsman must work under the "responsible control" of a Nevada registered architect, registered interior designer, residential designer or be a legally recognized employee of a general contractor. This means drafting services may not work directly for the general public or subcontract with general contractors without being in violation of Nevada law.

Please be aware, if an individual or firm is found to be providing drafting services that fall within the definition of the practice of architecture, registered interior design or residential design, they are subject to the following penalties.

NRS 623.360 Prohibited acts; penalties; injunctive relief.

1. It is unlawful for any person to:

NRS 623.360.1(a) *Hold himself out to the public or solicit business as an architect, registered interior designer or residential designer in this state without having a certificate of registration or temporary certificate issued by the Board.*

NRS 623.360.1(b) *Advertise, put out any sign, card or other device which indicates to the public that he is an architect, registered interior designer or residential designer or that he is otherwise qualified to:*

- (1) *Engage in the practice of architecture or residential design; or*
- (2) *Practice as a registered interior designer,*

without having a certificate of registration issued by the Board.

NRS 623.360.1(c) *Engage in the practice of architecture or residential design or practice as a registered interior designer without a certificate of registration issued by the Board.*

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 623.365 states that in addition to any other civil penalty provided by law, a person who violates any provision of NRS 623 or any regulation adopted by the board is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation.

In order to lawfully provide drafting services that fall under the definition of the practice of architecture, registered interior design or residential design, and depending upon the scope of work, one of the following three elements is required.

- 1) A certificate of registration issued by this board;*
- 2) The draftsman must work under the "responsible control" of an architect, registered interior design or residential designer; or*
- 3) The individual drafting the plans must be a legally recognized employee of a general contractor and the plans must be for the general contractor's own construction activities.*

This Board is interested in providing education and assistance to preclude these type of violations from happening. If you have any questions regarding the drafting services you are providing, please contact this agency for further clarification.

If your business is interested in preparing original or "as-built" plans for interior design, residential or commercial projects for the public or a contractor, you should contact the Administrative Division of the Nevada State Board of Architecture, Interior Design and Residential Design, regarding the minimum qualifications required to obtain a certificate of registration as an architect, registered interior designer or residential designer in the state of Nevada.

This information is being provided to drafting services to assure compliance with Chapter 623 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

Sincerely,

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE,
INTERIOR DESIGN & RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

Greg Erny, Chairman