

## NEBRASKA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION'S (NREC'S) GROUP ERRORS AND OMISSIONS (E&O) PROGRAM

Administered by Rice Insurance Services Center (RISC)
A Division of Accretive Specialty Insurance Solutions, LLC
Issued by Continental Casualty Company

502-897-1876 / 1-800-637-7319 4211 Norbourne Blvd., Louisville, KY 40207 P.O. Box 6709, Louisville, KY 40206 www.risceo.com

RISC is pleased to continue to provide the NREC's 2025 group real estate E&O insurance program. After 30+ years of service to Nebraska licensees, we strive to continue to exceed our insureds' expectations. The insurance carrier is Continental Casualty Company (Continental), a CNA insurance company rated "A" Excellent by A.M. Best.

# BASIC POLICY only \$128 annual premium

**NEW FOR 2025** – The NREC's group program is adjusting to align with a the NREC's 2-year real estate license renewal cycle. To accomplish this, licensees with a December 31, 2024 license renewal date may enroll in a 2-year group policy with a January 1, 2025 – January 1, 2027 group policy period. Licensees with a December 31, 2025 license renewal date may enroll in a 1-year group policy with a January 1, 2025 – January 1, 2026 group policy period, with 2-year renewal cycles thereafter. The new 2-year E&O requirement applies to any active licensee who has E&O insurance with the NREC's group program, an individual plan, or an independent group plan.

Limits of Liability \$100,000 per claim / \$300,000 aggregate w/ \$1,000 deductible for damages and no deductible for defense costs.

Increased Limits Available to Individual Licensees (Not Firms) – \$250,000 per claim / \$750,000 aggregate (\$62 additional annual premium) or \$500,000 per claim / \$1,000,000 aggregate (\$112 additional annual premium).

## **AUTOMATICALLY INCLUDES**

First Dollar Defense - Applies WITH NO CONDITIONS to all covered claims.

Defense Outside Limits – There is NO LIMIT on the amount of defense costs the carrier will pay in connection with claims covered under the basic policy limits. (There is limited coverage for regulatory complaints, which were not traditionally covered at all under many E&O policies).

Property Management Coverage - Insures specified leasing and property management services.

Firm / Franchise Coverage - Real estate firm and real estate franchisor included in the definition of insured for vicarious liability for covered claims.

**Team Coverage** – More and more licensees are choosing to work in teams. RISC's policy insures real estate teams (in addition to real estate firms and franchisors) for vicarious liability for covered claims in the event a claim is made against the team for acts of an insured team member.

Retroactive / Prior Acts Coverage – Insures prior transactions, provided you have maintained continuous real estate E&O insurance from the date of the professional services to the date the claim is first made.

Lock Box Sublimits - \$100,000 per lock box claim / \$300,000 aggregate (damages) with no limit on defense costs.

Discrimination / Fair Housing Sublimits - \$50,000 per discrimination claim / \$50,000 aggregate (damages) with no limit on defense costs.

Environmental Sublimits - \$10,000 per environmental claim / \$20,000 aggregate (damages) with no limit on defense costs.

Escrow / Earnest Money Sublimits - \$5,000 per escrow claim / \$10,000 aggregate (damages) with no limit on defense costs.

Primary Residence Sublimits – \$100,000 per primary residence claim / \$300,000 aggregate (damages) with no limit on defense costs for claims involving the sale or listing for sale of your primary residence.

Residential Personal Interest Sublimits – \$100,000 per residential personal interest claim / \$300,000 aggregate (damages) with no limit on defense costs for claims involving the sale or listing of residential property, as defined in the policy, you own (in addition to the primary residence).

Subpoena Coverage - Payment of unlimited attorneys' fees to represent the insured in connection with a covered subpoena.

Regulatory Complaints Coverage - \$5,000 per regulatory complaint / \$5,000 aggregate (defense costs).

Security Breach Supplementary Payment Coverage – \$5,000 reimbursement to the real estate firm for costs incurred to notify clients of a security breach (\$5,000 maximum per real estate firm, regardless of number of insureds or incidents involved).

## OPTIONAL ENDORSEMENTS AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUAL LICENSEES (NOT REAL ESTATE FIRMS)

**Appraisal Endorsement (\$200 annual premium)** – Active Nebraska real estate licensees who also have an active appraiser license may purchase an appraisal endorsement to add licensed appraisal services to the activity insured by the group policy.

Appraisal Trainee Endorsement (\$200 per trainee annual premium) – For active real estate licensees who also have an active appraiser license to add specified appraiser trainees as insureds while employed by you, under your supervision and control, and assisting you in the performance of your professional services. Eligibility Requirements: (1) active Nebraska real estate license, (2) active appraiser license, and (3) purchase an appraisal endorsement.

Contingent Bodily Injury / Property Damage Endorsement (\$30 annual premium) – \$10,000 per claim & aggregate (damages and defense costs, combined) for bodily injury and property damage claims that arise from professional services (conditions apply).

**Developed / Constructed by Spouse Endorsement (\$250 annual premium)** – \$100,000 per developed / constructed by spouse claim / \$300,000 aggregate for claims relating to the sale or listing for sale of residential property developed or constructed by the insured licensee's spouse, domestic partner, or a company owned by the licensee's spouse or domestic partners (conditions apply).

## OPTIONAL ENDORSEMENT AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUAL LICENSEES AND REAL ESTATE FIRMS

Conformity (\$20 annual premium) – Conforms your insurance under the Nebraska group policy to comply with another mandated state's E&O requirements. Eligibility Requirement: You must be actually domiciled or treated as domiciled in Nebraska under the policy.

#### WHERE COVERAGE APPLIES

For licensees domiciled in Nebraska, the group policy applies to professional services provided anywhere the licensee is duly licensed, so long as the services would require a real estate license had they been performed in Nebraska. Licensees not actually domiciled in Nebraska or not considered to be domiciled in Nebraska under the policy terms are insured only for professional services rendered in Nebraska.

## FIRM EXCESS COVERAGE, Subject to Underwriting Approval

Firm excess policies (written by Continental Casualty Company) with \$3,000,000 limits. To qualify, all of the firm's licensees must participate in the group program. The firm's broker or officer must complete an application to obtain a quote for a firm excess policy.

## RISK REDUCTION MATERIAL AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE, WWW.RISCEO.COM

We incorporate our knowledge of the policy and extensive claims handling experience into educational articles and videos.

Online enrollment, sample policy forms, risk reduction information, and more available at <u>www.risceo.com</u>.

Questions or Concerns? Contact us: 1-800-637-7319 Policy Dept, Ext. 1 / Claims Dept, Ext. 2 / Excess Dept, Ext. 3

CNA is a service mark and trade name registered with the US Patent and Trademark Office. The program referenced herein is underwritten by Continental Casualty Company, a CNA insurance company. This information is for illustrative purposes only and is not a contract. It is intended to provide a general overview of the products and services offered. Only the policy can provide the actual terms, coverages, amounts, conditions, and exclusions. This program is only available in Nebraska. ©2024



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# Nebraska Real Estate Commission's Group Policy

Real Estate E&O Insurance Designed for Nebraska Licensees

Continued Commitment to Nebraska Licensees

Over \$3.7 Million in defense costs and damages have been incurred by Continental Casualty Company (a CNA insurance company, rated "A Excellent" by A.M. Best) on behalf of Nebraska licensees as of August 31, 2024. RISC and CNA share a commitment to their insureds to provide valuable coverage to Nebraska licensees. When shopping for insurance coverage, it's important to ask about the company's experience and paid claims in Nebraska. Payments on behalf of Nebraska licensees demonstrate a carrier's commitment to its insureds.

# Rely on the Most Experienced Provider in the Business

The Rice family and their colleagues have specialized in mandated real estate E&O programs since 1989. CNA has 50+ years of experience in E&O programs, including 30+ years in real estate E&O. CNA is the top provider of real estate liability insurance, delivering 100+ years of experience, industry knowledge, and financial strength to manage even the most complex risks. You can be confident we will be here for you even after you purchase coverage.

# When a Claim is Made, Our In-House Adjusters Focus on You

Some people assume insurance companies look for reasons to deny coverage. Our duty to find coverage where the policy supports it is our utmost concern. Most insurance providers use one entity to sell the policy and another to handle claims. Because we do both, the information we provide about the policy reflects how it will actually apply in the event of a claim. Providers who don't administer claims may not know how the carrier actually applies the policy when a claim is made.

## We Stand by You Even if There Is a Claim

You may be involved in a claim even if you did everything by the book. Some providers won't write your coverage if you have had a claim. Or if you have a claim, they may not renew your policy! There is no need to fear reporting a claim under our program. We understand having a claim does not mean you did anything wrong. Anyone can be involved in a transaction that goes sour. Never think it can't happen to you. And we are here to help you if it does.

Call us at 1-800-637-7319 or visit our website at <a href="https://www.risceo.com">www.risceo.com</a> We look forward to hearing from you

All E&O Providers Are Not the Same . . . Neither Are All E&O Policies

**Always Review the Actual Policy Provisions!** The most accurate representation of what a policy covers is the policy itself. We urge you to review any policy you are considering and ask these questions:

**Does the policy provide first dollar defense? Yes.** There is no deductible for defense costs, so there is no cost to you unless there is a damage award or settlement. Other policies may have stringent requirements that must be followed to qualify for first dollar defense.

**Does the policy offer unlimited defense costs? Yes.** There is no limit on the amount of defense costs available to pay covered claims. (There is a limit on regulatory complaints coverage, which was traditionally not covered at all under many E&O policies).

Does the policy insure transactions you do for relatives? Yes. The RISC policy applies to claims involving services performed for your relatives and in-laws. This is important, since buyers and sellers often turn to a trusted relative who is a real estate licensee to represent them in a transaction.

Does the policy apply to claims relating to all types of real property? Yes. The RISC policy applies to any claim relating to professional services, regardless of the type of property involved. Other policies may limit coverage to a specific type of property, such as residential, or require additional premium for coverage for other kinds of property. Even if you currently handle only residential transactions, consider whether you are willing to forgo an opportunity to work with commercial property or farmland or to risk not having coverage for a claim resulting from the transaction.

Does the policy insure your firm for its vicarious liability for your professional services? Yes. Claims are often made against real estate firms as a result of their licensees' negligence. Under the RISC program, the insured licensee's policy applies to covered claims alleging the firm's vicarious liability for negligent acts, errors, and omissions in the licensee's professional services. Some policies issued to individual licensees may not provide coverage for the firm's vicarious liability for their actions, which may leave the firm uncovered in the event of a claim against it.

**Are insureds happy with the provider? Yes.** Below are excerpts from actual emails we have received from insureds:

Rest assured, my E&O business will always be with Rice and I will continue to recommend you to anyone willing to listen. Most important, how lucky you are to have staff members...who are willing to go the "extra mile" to ensure your customers stay your customers. J.Z. (NE, IA, WY, and CO)

Thank you so very much! So very thankful for your help and kindness. You helped me out tremendously. D.S. (NE)

A lot of agents are [enrolling] online and it's wonderful! A.M. (Contact for large firm with ND, SD, and NE insureds)



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NOTICE – Rice Insurance Services Center, a division of Accretive Specialty Insurance Solutions, LLC (RISC), is pleased to continue to provide the NREC's 2024 group real estate errors and omissions (E&O) insurance program. Nebraska law requires that all active real estate licensees carry and maintain E&O insurance to cover all licensed activities. Real estate firms are not required to carry E&O insurance but may choose to do so. Real estate firms must be registered with the Nebraska Secretary of State to enroll in the group policy. If your firm is currently enrolled in the current state group program, its coverage expires January 1, 2025. Real estate firms that purchase insurance through the RISC group program will be insured for the firm's professional services as a registered real estate firm. In the event a covered claim is made against the firm for the firm's acts and for the firm's vicarious liability for the acts of one of its covered licensees, the firm's insurance may provide limits of liability in addition to any available under the licensee's insurance.

NEW FOR 2025 – While real estate firms are not required to maintain E&O insurance, the group policy is moving to a two-year renewal cycle to comply with new NREC requirements for individual real estate licensees. Real estate firms may continue to opt to enroll in the group program, as long as the firm is registered with the Nebraska Secretary of State.

**PROTECTION FROM THE MOST EXPERIENCED PROVIDER IN THE BUSINESS** – RISC's independent group program exceeds state requirements and is specially tailored to meet the specific needs of Nebraska licensees. Our management team has been involved in statemandated real estate E&O insurance programs longer than any other group in the business. The insurance carrier is Continental Casualty Company, a CNA insurance Company. RISC's experience and excellent claims service, combined with CNA's strong financial performance and ratings (rated "A" by A.M. Best), ensures a quality program for Nebraska licensees.

**OPTION FOR RENEWING E&O COVERAGE FOR MULTIPLE LICENSEES** – Companies with 10+ licensees can request a Multiple Licensee Renewal Form to electronically submit enrollment information for all the firm's licensees timely and expediently.

**FIRM EXCESS POLICIES AVAILABLE** – Firm excess policies (written by Continental Casualty Company) with \$3,000,000 limits are available on an underwritten basis. To qualify, all the firm's licensees must participate in the group program. Contact us for an application to obtain a quote.

#### REVIEW THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND SIGN BELOW

What Is and Is Not Covered – We urge anyone considering the group program to review a sample policy, including the Exclusions section. Sample policy forms and additional information are available on our website, <a href="https://www.risceo.com">www.risceo.com</a>, or by calling us toll-free at 1-800-637-7319, Ext. 1.

This is a Claims-Made-and-Reported Policy – There is no coverage for claims first made before the beginning or after the end of your firm's individual policy period. If you or your firm have any knowledge of a claim; potential claim; or any act, error, omission, fact, or situation that may give rise to a claim against you or your firm, it must be reported in writing immediately to you and your firm's insurance carrier before the current policy period expires. Failure to do so may jeopardize any coverage that would have otherwise been available. Any claim under the RISC's policies must be reported to us in writing during the individual policy period in which it is first made against the insured. For further instructions and a notice of claim form, visit our website, <a href="https://www.risceo.com">www.risceo.com</a>, then select the "Claims" tab or call us toll-free at 1-800-637-7319, Ext. 2.

**Prior Acts and Importance of Timely Renewal** – Your firm's "retroactive date" determines whether there is coverage for services performed before the policy's effective date. The retroactive date is the date from which your firm has continuously maintained uninterrupted E&O insurance, with no gaps. Even a one-day gap will result in loss of coverage for ALL professional services performed before the new policy's effective date, even if your firm had E&O insurance when the services were provided and again when the claim arises. If your firm fails to enroll timely, call RISC immediately to see if it qualifies to backdate its individual policy period to January 1, 2025.

Not Renewing Coverage? Consider an Optional Extended Reporting Period (ERP) Endorsement – There is no coverage for claims that arise after the end of your firm's individual policy period unless an ERP is in place. Claims often arise years after the subject transaction occurred. ERP Endorsements extend the policy's reporting date to apply to claims that are first made against an insured and reported to the carrier within the ERP. If your firm is not renewing coverage for any reason (e.g., inactivating / retiring its license or switching to another insurance provider), it should consider purchasing an ERP Endorsement. If you are insured through the current state group program and not renewing coverage for any reason, you should contact your current provider about any available ERP Endorsements. We offer 1, 2, 3, and 5 year ERP Endorsements for firms that enroll in the 2025 group program and do not renew coverage for any reason. An ERP Endorsement may only be purchased any time during or up to 90 days after the end of your firm's individual policy period.

**Territory** – Firms domiciled in Nebraska are insured for real estate services performed anywhere they hold an active real estate license, provided the services would require a real estate license if performed in Nebraska. Firms not domiciled in Nebraska are insured for Nebraska transactions only. Out-of-state firms may be considered domiciled in Nebraska if their principal real estate license is affiliated with a real estate office in Nebraska and they reside within 50 miles of the Nebraska state line. See the sample policy, Territory section for more information.

**Effective Date** – Real estate firms that enroll before January 1, 2025 will have a January 1, 2025 inception date. Real estate firms that enroll after January 1, 2025 will have an inception date of the day we receive the firm's *completed application and premium*. Real estate firms not enrolled in our current independent group policy or the current state group policy may request a different inception date (after January 1, 2025) for Continental's consideration:

Premium / Deductible – <u>All premiums are fully earned at policy inception and no refunds are permitted after that date.</u> If your firm's payment is returned for non-sufficient funds, it is responsible for payment of any resulting bank fees or penalties. The deductible will be due in accordance with the policy. Applicant agrees to reimburse the Company for any and all costs and expenses it incurs by employing a collection agency to collect any overdue deductible.

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# FIRM ENROLLMENT FORM

Real estate firms are not required to carry E&O insurance but may choose to do so. Real estate firms must be registered with the Nebraska Secretary of State to enroll in the group policy.						
	HOW T	O ENROLL				
ONLINE – At www.risceo.com with a Visa, Mas nonrefundable convenience fee applies).	terCard, American Exp	oress, or Discover and do	wnload a certificate of	coverage imme	ediately (\$5	
BY MAIL – Select desired coverages below and Allow 7 – 10 business days for processing.	d send your firm's com	pleted form (both pages)	with a check or money	order payable	e to RISC.	
<b>Mailing Address</b> RISC, P.O. Box 6709, Louisville, KY 40206-0709		RISC, 4211 Norl	<b>Overnight Delivery</b> RISC, 4211 Norbourne Blvd., Louisville, KY 40207-4048			
Correct any incorrect information a		IRM INFORMATION Failure to do so may dela	y issuance of your firm	's coverage.		
Company Name Designated Broker			Designated Broker			
DBA			Secretary of State No.			
			EIN Number			
Address						
City	State		Zip Code			
Work Phone	Home Phone		Cell Phone  □ I want text reminders if / when the option is available			
Fax	Email*	nail*				
*We occasionally send important notices by email. To receiv	e these notices, provide you	r firm's current email address and	d add @risceo.com to your fi	rm's address book		
SEL	ECT YOUR FIRM'S	DESIRED COVERAG	E(S)			
January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2027 <b>Limits of Liability</b> – \$100,000 per claim / \$300,000 aggregate <b>Deductible</b> – \$1,000 (Damages)		\$256	<b>~</b>			
Conformity Endorsement – Conforms your firm in another mandated state where your firm has your firm must be actually domiciled in NE or trestate(s):  Other State License #:	s an active real estate ated as domiciled in N	license. To be eligible f	or this endorsement, ease circle applicable	\$40 regardless of number of states at issuance		
			sic Policy Premium dorsement Premium	\$ \$	256	
4.4			TOTAL	\$		
Enrollee has reviewed and understands the information or misstated any material facts. Enrollee understands for the purpose of defrauding the company. Penalties the basis of the contract with the Company and that the company to the	that it is a crime to know include imprisonment, fin coverage, if written, will be	ringly provide false, incomple es, and denial of insurance be provided on a claims-made	ete, or misleading informa penefits. Enrollee agrees	tion to an insura that this enrollm	ance company nent form shall	

and the completion of the children deconormation and company to local a pency.						
COMPLETE IF ENROLLING BY MAIL						
FIRM NAME						
SIGNATURE OF PERSON WITH						
AUTHORITY FOR FIRM						
PRINT NAME		DATE				