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is a Commission Agreement? A commission agreement is a written agreement between a business organization and an individual. The business possesses services or goods to sell, while the individual markets the services or goods on its behalf. The company promises to compensate the individual through a commission, which is a fee based on sales. A sales commission is a business arrangement that increases company sales. There are two basic types of commission arrangements: sales and real estate commission. A sales commission contract lays out the payment details a company has to pay to a salesperson, where a salesperson can be an employee or independent contractor. A real estate commission contract is an arrangement between a seller and an agent, where the seller agrees to give an agent a portion of the sales once a buyer purchases his property. The Different Forms of Sales Commission Every company needs to have a sales commission structure that increases its profitability. According to Forbes, in 2016, there were about 5.7 million sales representatives in the United States, which means that more and more people are seeing the benefit of getting into a career that focuses on sales. The following are different forms of sales commissions a company can take advantage of. Straight Commission. In this type of plan, the sales representative collects his commission directly from the sales. This means that a salesperson can earn as much as he desires depending on the outcome of his efforts. Typically, the company offers a high commission rate because it is not under obligation to pay for a base wage. Therefore, the sales representative has full control of his/her income, and he can work flexibly or overtime if he wants to. Draw Commission. In this type of plan, the sales representative is paid a fixed amount of money on a monthly or hourly basis. This structure puts pressure both on the employer and the sales agent. The company is responsible for paying an agent a base salary and a commission for every sale. Most of the time, the commission a salesperson gets is more than his base salary. For that reason, sales representatives usually rely on their commissions more than their salaries to get enough income. The good thing about this structure is when the market slows down, an agent can still rely on his/her salary to get by. Revenue Commission. This model applies to both types of commission structures mentioned above, this is what sets a company's commission rate. This is a popular model that field business organizations use because of the kind of products they sell. For example, if an agent sells a \$2,000 worth of service, he will get a 10% commission. Several businesses choose this type of method because their goal is to increase market share and expand their market territory. Their initial focus is not on profit but greater business aims. Paying a sales representative based on this model is fair enough for both the company and the sales representative. Top performers earn more and idle agents earn less or even none. Gross margin commission. A model that is slightly different from the revenue model, a gross margin commission considers the cost of the product a sales agent sells. Instead of earning a portion of the sales revenue, the sales representative only gets a portion of the profit. For example, an agent sells an item for \$2,000 and its cost is \$1,200, the agent will only collect a percentage for the \$800 profit. For that reason, a sales agent will choose to sell the product at a higher price to receive more incentive. Therefore, they can't afford to offer discounts since it will affect their pay. Draw against commission. In this type of model, a salesperson is guaranteed a specific amount of payment monthly, regardless of his/her sales. If the commission is less than the draw money, the sales representative will still keep the commission and draw amount. Additionally, he will also receive the commission on the sales he makes. For example, an agent is entitled to \$2,000 as his draw money and earns \$2,000 as his commission. He will have a net of \$0. If he earns \$3,000, he will have a net of \$1,000. Tiered Commission. To motivate salespeople, companies often use this model to reward sales performers. Every time a salesperson reaches a sales quota, his commission rate changes. For example, an agent may obtain a 3% commission on sales that range from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Once he passes over that mark, he can earn a 5% commission on sales that range from \$20,000 to \$25,000, and so on. The same applies to underperformers, who will receive less monetary compensation if they cannot reach their quota. For example, a sales agent who only achieved 80% of his quota will only receive a commission out of his 80% sales. Base rate alone. Only very few business organizations use this type of model. Instead of getting a commission for every sale, a salesperson receives payment at an hourly rate. It is similar to being employed. Companies who use this model, don't offer incentives, therefore salespeople are often unmotivated to sell more. It doesn't encourage, even sales performers, to do their best. Both top performers and underperformers receive the same compensation regardless of their efforts. Nevertheless, companies whose focus is on inbound sales choose to use this model because sales representatives spend more of their time supporting the company rather than selling. How to Construct a Sales Commission Agreement Sample A sales commission agreement can be between a company and an employee, or it can be between a company and an independent contractor. The contract outlines the payment structure and the relationship between the two parties involved. The following are steps on how to construct a sample of a sales commission contract. Step 1: Write a Statement of Authorization An authorization statement permits the salesperson to sell the services or products of a company or employer. In this section of the contract, the employer specifies the limits of selling. A salesperson will only be permitted to sell within the bounds of the company's territories. Moreover, the salesperson will be required to keep a record of his sales and report them to the employer. Step 2: Define the Commission Structure This section defines the commission structure, including the commission rate, the commission type, and the commission payment method. The commission structure can be based on a percentage of sales, a fixed amount, or a combination of both. Step 3: Define the Commission Payment Method This section defines the commission payment method, including the payment frequency, the payment method, and the payment terms. The commission payment method can be based on a percentage of sales, a fixed amount, or a combination of both. Step 4: Define the Commission Termination This section defines the commission termination, including the termination conditions, the termination process, and the termination consequences. The commission termination can be based on a percentage of sales, a fixed amount, or a combination of both. Step 5: Define the Commission Dispute Resolution This section defines the commission dispute resolution, including the dispute resolution process, the dispute resolution method, and the dispute resolution consequences. The commission dispute resolution can be based on a percentage of sales, a fixed amount, or a combination of both. Step 6: Define the Commission Governing Law This section defines the commission governing law, including the governing law, the governing jurisdiction, and the governing court. The commission governing law can be based on a percentage of sales, a fixed amount, or a combination of both. Step 7: Define the Commission Entire Agreement This section defines the commission entire agreement, including the entire agreement, the entire agreement process, and the entire agreement consequences. The commission entire agreement can be based on a percentage of sales, a fixed amount, or a combination of both. Step 8: Define the Commission Signatures This section defines the commission signatures, including the signatures, the signatures process, and the signatures consequences. The commission signatures can be based on a percentage of sales, a fixed amount, or a combination of both. Step 9: Define the Commission Date This section defines the commission date, including the date, the date process, and the date consequences. The commission date can be based on a percentage of sales, a fixed amount, or a combination of both. 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