# our escrow office Branches

GREYSTONE TITLE AGENCY Polished, Experienced, Professional

## Scottsdale Lincoln

6710 N Scottsdale Rd Suite 180 Scottsdale, AZ 85253 480-624-4370 Main Phone 480-624-3336 E-Fax

## Scottsdale North

6710 N Scottsdale Rd Suite 180 Scottsdale, AZ 85253 480-624-4370 Main Phone 480-624-3336 E-Fax

## Scottsdale Spectrum

6710 N Scottsdale Rd Suite 180 Scottsdale, AZ 85253 480-624-4370 Main Phone 480-624-3336 E-Fax \*Spanish Speaking

## Chandler/Ocotillo

1035 W. Queen Creed Rd Suite 101 Chandler, AZ 85248 480-624-8610 Main Phone 480-624-3717 E-Fax \*Spanish Speaking

## Glendale/Arrowhead

17505 N 79th Ave Ste 114 Suite 101 Peoria, AZ 85308 480-624-4377 Main Phone 623-624-5934 E-Fax

## Corporate Office

6710 N Scottsdale Rd Suite 180 Scottsdale, AZ 85253 (480) 624-8600 Main (480) 991-0518 Fax



Corporate Counsel Mike Abel 1035 W. Queen Creek Rd, Suite 101 Chandler, AZ 85248 480-624-4369 Phone



## Arizona's Good Funds Law

ARS 6-834 requires that "escrow agents not disburse money from an escrow account until funds related to the transaction have been deposited and available." The legislation specifies which forms of payments are acceptable for deposit.

All availability dates are based on funds deposited in our bank, and the days are considered business days. A business day is defined as a calendar day other than Saturday or Sunday, and excludes most major holidays.

## SAME DAY

- Cash: Special requirements may need to be met if necessary to accept cash.
- Cashiers, Certified and Tellers Checks

• Electronic Payment/Transfer or Wire: This is the preferred method for receiving funds.

## NEXT DAY

- Official Checks: In-State checks drawn on FDIC Insured Institution
- U.S. Treasury Checks
- Postal Money Orders (other Money Orders, see "Fifth Day")
- Federal Reserve, Federal Credit Union and Federal Home Loan Bank Checks
- State and Local Government Checks: Must be In-State
- Greystone Title Checks\*\*: In State

## SECOND DAY - SEE CAUTION \*

• Other Checks: Personal, Corporate, Credit Union, Money Market, and Travelers Checks - In State

## FIFTH DAY - SEE CAUTION \*

- Official Checks: Out-of-State and/or Not Drawn on FDIC-Insured Institution
- Money Orders (except Postal Money Orders see "Next Day")
- State and Local Government Checks: Out of State
- Greystone Title Checks\*\*: Out of State, Other
- Other Checks: Personal, Corporate, Credit Union, Money Market, and Travelers Checks - Out of State, Other

## FOREIGN CHECKS:

Greystone Title does not accept foreign checks into escrow. This includes foreign checks paid through a US Bank. All money coming from outside the United States must be sent via wire transfer.

## THIRD PARTY CHECKS:

Greystone Title does not accept any third party checks. These include any check drawn on a non-financial institution account, payable to a payee other than Greystone Title and subsequently endorsed to Greystone Title. Exception: United States Treasury checks payable to Farmers Home Administration's borrower, endorsed over to Greystone Title.

#### Caution

Due to the length of time it takes to receive notice from the banks on NSF and returned items when disbursing funds from escrow based on a deposit of a personal check, if 10 days have not elapsed from the date funds were deposited, written verification from the customer's bank that the check has paid is required.

#### \*\* Greystone Title Checks

Next-day availability is dependent on the check being drawn against the same bank or branch as our own depository bank. Both must be located in the same State or check processing region.

# Our escrow process



### What is an Escrow?

An escrow is created after you sign the contract to purchase your new home. It is a process wherein the buyer and the seller deposit funds and documents with an escrow agent who acts as a neutral third party. The escrow agent is a common depository. The buyer and seller can proceed simultaneously by depositing funds, deeds, inspection reports, insurance information and other required documents. Both parties give written instructions with requirements which must be met before the transaction is complete.

#### How is an Escrow opened?

Once the Seller has accepted your offer and a contract has been com-

pleted, your REALTOR<sup>®</sup> will open the escrow. At this time any earnest money and the contract are placed in escrow. Greystone Title Agency, as a neutral party, can only respond to written instructions mutually agreed on by both interested parties and cannot alter the contract or create instructions.

#### What happens during the Escrow process?

Greystone Title Agency will begin by researching records on the property. A commitment for title insurance is issued indicating clear title or the description of items that need to be cleared prior to closing. Your escrow officer will then follow the instructions on your contract to coordinate deadlines and gather necessary paperwork.

#### **Closing the Escrow**

Once all terms and conditions are met the escrow holder causes the necessary documents to be recorded and disburses funds according to the real estate purchase contract or instructions. Escrow fees are included in these costs and are based on the sale price of the property, the loan amount and services required.

## Security

in the escrow process The State of Arizona licenses and regulates all escrow companies. The stability, reliability and performance of your title and escrow company are vital to protect the interests of all parties involved in the transaction.

The authority given to an escrow agent is strictly limited by terms and conditions agreed to on the real estate purchase contract or instructions to allocate funds during the escrow period such as real estate commissions, title insurance, liens, recording fees and other closing costs. The real estate purchase contracts also specify the method of collecting funds, proration of insurance and taxes and time limitations on settling the transaction.

Confidentiality is another important aspect of escrow. The agent will discuss escrow matters only with the parties directly involved in the transaction, specifically the buyer, seller, lender and real estate agent. No one else has access to this information except through the proper legal procedures. The escrow officer retains impartiality and confidentiality concerning the real estate process.



# The Title commitment

## GREYSTONE TITLE AGENCY

# Explanation of the contents in the Title Commitment you receive from Greystone Title Agency

### Schedule A

Your escrow officer submits this information to our Title Department. It contains information given to us by the buyer or the REALTOR<sup>®</sup> such as the legal description and sale price of the property, loan amount, lender and the name of the buyer and seller.

#### Schedule B

Schedule B contains "exceptions," which are items attached to the property such as Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs), easements, homeowners association regulations, leases and other items on record that transfer with the home. The buyer will receive a clear title, but their rights will be subject to conditions in the listed "exceptions."

#### Requirements

In order to provide a clear title to the property, these items need to be deleted or recorded by Greystone Title Agency:

- Any lien(s) on the property
- Assessment(s) owed
- Current property tax status

An identity statement may clear up items that show up against a property when the transaction involves parties who have similar name(s).



## Buyer's duties

## during escrow process



•Greystone Title Agency will ask the buyer for an identity statement to distinguish them from others with similar names that appear in County Records. The information provided is also utilized by your escrow officer.

■Buyers are responsible for obtaining a home loan. Your REALTOR<sup>®</sup> may be able to guide you to a lender and assist in the process.

•Certain documents may require a response from the buyers such as in-

formation pertaining to the Homeowners Association, Flood Hazard Disclosure, independent inspections and the Seller's Property Disclosure Statement which lists any problems with the property that the seller is aware of.

■Greystone Title Agency will give a copy of the title commitment to the buyers, realtors, sellers, and lender for review. Questions should be directed to your escrow officer or REALTOR<sup>®</sup>.

# Ways to take title in Arizona

### **Community Property**

Arizona is a community property State. There is a statutory presumption that all property acquired by husband and wife is community property, entitling each spouse to half-interest in the estate. Upon the death of one of the spouses, the deceased spouse's interest will pass by either a will or intestate succession.

## Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship

This is a method of co-ownership that gives title to the real property to the last survivor. Title to real property can be acquired by two or more individuals either married or unmarried. If a married couple acquires title as joint tenants with the right of survivorship, they must specifically accept the joint tenancy to avoid the presumption of community property.

## Community Property with Right of Survivorship

A method of holding title between married persons that vests the title to real property in the surviving spouse when same is expressly declared in the deed. This vesting has some tax benefits along with probate avoidance features of "survivorship rights."

### **Tenants in Common**

A method of co-ownership where parties do not have survivorship rights and each owns a specific undivided interest in the entire estate.

### Sole and Separate

Real property owned by a spouse before marriage or any acquired after marriage by gift, descent or specific intent. If a married person acquires title as sole and separate property, his/her spouse must execute a Disclaimer Deed.



GREYSTONE TITLE AGENCY

### Corporation

Title may be taken in the name of a corporation provided the corporation is duly formed and in good standing in the State of its incorporation.

## **General Partnership**

Title may be taken in the name of a general partnership duly formed under the laws of the State of the formation of the partnership. A partnership is defined as the voluntary association of two or more persons as co-owners in a business for profit.

### **Limited Partnership**

A partnership formed by two or more persons under the laws of Arizona or another State and having one or more general partners and one or more limited partners. A certificate of limited partnership must be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and a certified copy of which must be recorded with the County Recorder's Office.



# Buying a Home in Arizona as a Foreign Buyer

and how FIRPTA applies!

- All funds deposited for the escrow must be by wire transfer.
- Out of US Wire Transfers / Swift Fee: International transfers are executed through SWIFT, Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, and there is an additional charge for this type of transfer.
  - The charge is deducted from the wired funds and varies from bank to bank. The charge is typically a flat rate and usually does not exceed \$50.00. We recommend that our clients wire an additional \$50.00 when wiring from outside of the U.S.
- When a foreign owner Sells their property they could be subject to a 10% (of the Sales Price) withholding unless the transaction is exempt from Foreign Investment In Real Property Tax Act.
- Most common exemption: Sales Price is not more than \$300K. The Buyer or a member of their family must have plans to reside at the property for at least 50% of the number of days the property is used by any person during each of the first two twelve month periods after sale.
- Other Exemptions that apply are:
  - · Seller to provide a certificate showing seller is not a foreign seller
  - Seller receives a withholding certificate from IRS excusing withholding

## If applicable see forms:

W-7 (application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number)
 8288-B (Application for Withholding Certificate for Dispositions by Foreign Persons of U.S. Real Property Interests)





## Foreign Investment In Real Property Tax Act (FIRPTA)

## GREYSTONE TITLE AGENCY



Form <b>W-7</b> (Rev. August 2013) Department of the Treasu	Ta)	pplication to xpayer Iden dividuals who are	n <b>tificatio</b> not U.S. citize	n Numbe		s.	OMB No. 1545-0074	
Internal Revenue Service	I townower identification num	► See instructions. axpayer identification number (ITIN) is for federal tax purposes only.					FOR IRS USE ONLY	
				purposes on	y.			
Before you begin	<b>:</b> this form if you have, or are eli	iaible to aet a l l	S social sec	urity number (	SSN)			
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	2 Street address, apartment n	umber, or rural rou	ite number. If y	ou have a P.O	. box, see s	eparate inst	ructions.	
Applicant's mailing address	City or town, state or proving	ce, and country. In	clude ZIP code	e or postal code	where appr	opriate.		
Foreign (non- J.S.) address 3 Street address, apartment number, or rural route number. Do not use a P.O. box number.								
(if different from above) (see instructions)	City or town, state or province, and country. Include ZIP code or postal code where appropriate.							
Birth information	4 Date of birth (month / day / year)			City and state o			Male Female	
Other information	6a Country(ies) of citizenship	6b Foreign tax I.			-		ber, and expiration date	
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					•		Long the second s	
	6e Have you previously received a Internal Revenue Service Number (IRSN) or employer identification number (EIN)? No/Do not know. Skip line 6f.							
	Yes. Complete line 6f. If more than one, list on a sheet and attach to this form (see instructions).							
	6f Enter: IRSN or EIN ► and							
	Name under which it was issued >							
	6g Name of college/university o City and state			Length of	stay			
Sign Here	Acceptance agent returns of return information necessary to resolve matters regarding the assignment of my into individual taxpayer loc						e the IRS to disclose to my	
	Signature of applicant (if del	egate, see instruct	tions)	Date (month / day	/year) Pi	hone numbe	r .	
Keep a copy for your records.	Name of delegate, if applica	icable (type or print)		to applicant			rent Court-appointed guardian wer of Attorney	
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Agent's Use ONLY	Name and title (type or print)         Name of company         EIN				PTIN Code			

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions.

Certificate of Accuracy           The undersigned	Form W-7 (COA) (Rev. March 2013) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Certificate of Accuracy for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number See Publication 4520 Form use only by IRS Certifying Acceptance Agents when submitting Form			OMB Numb 1545-0074	
The undersigned	<u></u>				
(CAA Business Name)       / 20	The undersigned	•	entative of		
the Internal Revenue Service dated/20 The undersigned certifies with regard to Form W-7 submitted	·	, a Certifying Acceptance Agent unc	ler an agreemer	nt entered into w	
(Form W-7 Applicant's Name)         provided the documentation checked below that sufficiently supports the applicant's identity and foreign status.         REMINDER:       A passport is the only document that proves both "foreign status" and "identity". If a passport is not provided, a combination of two or more documents must be provided to meet the documentation requirements.         Check the box under each category (Identity, Foreign Status) that corresponds to the documents reviewed by you.         Supporting Document       Identity         Passport (Stand Alone Document)       Image: Complexity of the applicant of the documents of the documents reviewed by you.         National Identification Card ( <i>must be current and contain name, photograph, address, date of bith and expiration date</i> )       Image: Complexity of the applicants under 18 if passport is not provided)         United States Drivers License       Image: Complexity of the applicants under age 6)       Image: Complexity of the applicants under age 6)         Foreign Voters Registration Card       Image: Complexity of the applexity of the applicant is applying for an ITIN under "Ma	•				
(Form W-7 Applicant's Name)         provided the documentation checked below that sufficiently supports the applicant's identity and foreign status.         REMINDER: A passport is the only document that proves both 'foreign status' and 'identity'. If a passport is not provided, a combination of two or more documents must be provided to meet the documentation requirements.         Check the box under each category (Identity, Foreign Status) that corresponds to the documents reviewed by you.         Supporting Document       Identity         Passpot (Stand Alone Document)       Identity         National Identification Card (must be current and contain name, photograph, address, date of bith and expiration date)       Imited States Drivers License         Civil Birth Certificate (Required for applicants under 18 if passport is not provided)       Imited States Crivers License         United States State Identification Card       Imited States State Identification Card       Imited States State Identification Card         Foreign Voters Registration Card       Imited States Civile doring applicants under age 14 (under age 18 if a student))       Imited States Civile doring for dependents under age 14 (under age 18 if a student))       Imited States Civile doring for an information Services (USCIS) Photo Identification         Visa issued by United States Department of State       Imited States Civilenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Photo Identification       Imited States State Identification Card         May be used to establish "foreign status" only if the documents are foreign.       Chec	the Internal Revenue Servic				
REMINDER:       A passport is the only document that proves both "foreign status" and "identity". If a passport is not provided, a combination of two or more documents must be provided to meet the documentation requirements.         Check the box under each category (Identity, Foreign Status) that corresponds to the documents reviewed by you.       Identity         F       Supporting Document       Identity         Passport (Stand Alone Document)       Identity       Fs         National Identification Card (must be current and contain name, photograph, address, date of birth and expiration date)       Identity       Fs         United States Drivers License       Image: Combination of the or applicants under 18 if passport is not provided)       Image: Combination Card       Image: Combination Card <td>(Fc</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	(Fc				
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Supporting Document         Identity         Fs           Passport (Stand Alone Document)					
Supporting Document         Identity         S           Passport (Stand Alone Document)	Check the box under each	n category (Identity, Foreign Status) that corresponds to the doc	uments review		
National Identification Card (must be current and contain name, photograph, address, date of birth and expiration date)		Supporting Document	Identit	y Fore Stat	
birth and expiration date)	Passport (Stand Alone Doc	ument)			
Civil Birth Certificate (Required for applicants under 18 if passport is not provided)		(must be current and contain name, photograph, address, date of			
Medical Records (valid only for dependents under age 6)	United States Drivers Licen	se			
Foreign Drivers License	Civil Birth Certificate (Requi	red for applicants under 18 if passport is not provided)			
United States State Identification Card	Medical Records (valid only	for dependents under age 6)			
Foreign Voters Registration Card	Foreign Drivers License				
United States Military Identification Card	United States State Identification Card				
Foreign Military Identification Card	Foreign Voters Registration Card				
School Records (valid only for dependents under age 14 (under age 18 if a student))	United States Military Identi	fication Card			
Visa issued by United States Department of State	Foreign Military Identification	n Card			
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Photo Identification  *May be used to establish "foreign status" only if the documents are foreign. Check and complete the following paragraph only if the applicant is applying for an ITIN under  *Exception 1(a) - Partnership Interest".  The undersigned further certifies that the Applicant has provided a copy of the relevant pages of the Partnership Agreement of as documentation in support of meeting the requirements for Exception 1(a).  The undersigned further certifies that the documentation was reviewed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Acceptance Agent Agreement and is authentic, complete, and accurate based on the information and documentation submitte applicant.  The Certifying Acceptance Agent shall retain copies of all relevant documents including signed copies of the Forms W-7 su to the IRS on behalf of the applicant upon which the Certifying Acceptance Agent has relied upon to certify the applicant's fore and identity.	School Records (valid only for dependents under age 14 (under age 18 if a student))				
*May be used to establish "foreign status" only if the documents are foreign. Check and complete the following paragraph only if the applicant is applying for an ITIN under "Exception 1(a) - Partnership Interest".  The undersigned further certifies that the Applicant has provided a copy of the relevant pages of the Partnership Agreement of (Name of Partnership) EIN Acceptance Agent further certifies that the documentation was reviewed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Acceptance Agent Agreement and is authentic, complete, and accurate based on the information and documentation submitte applicant. The Certifying Acceptance Agent shall retain copies of all relevant documents including signed copies of the Forms W-7 su to the IRS on behalf of the applicant upon which the Certifying Acceptance Agent has relied upon to certify the applicant's fore and identity.	Visa issued by United States Department of State				
Check and complete the following paragraph only if the applicant is applying for an ITIN under "Exception 1(a) - Partnership Interest".	United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Photo Identification				
Agreement of and [Name of Partnership) as documentation in support of meeting the requirements for Exception 1(a). The undersigned further certifies that the documentation was reviewed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Acceptance Agent Agreement and is authentic, complete, and accurate based on the information and documentation submitte applicant. The Certifying Acceptance Agent shall retain copies of all relevant documents including signed copies of the Forms W-7 su to the IRS on behalf of the applicant upon which the Certifying Acceptance Agent has relied upon to certify the applicant's fore and identity.	Check and complete	the following paragraph only if the applicant is apply	ving for an I	ΓIN under	
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	Catalog Number 56020G	www.irs.gov	Form <b>W-7</b>	(COA) (Rev	

	ment of the Treasury Revenue Service		Please type or print.		
1	Name of transferor (	attach additional sheets if	more than one transferor)	Identification number	ər
	Street address, apt,	or suite no., or rural route	, Do not use a P.O. box.		
	City, state or provin	ce, and country (if not U.S	.). Include ZIP code or postal code where appropriate.		
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	Street address, apt.	or suite no., or rural route	, Do not use a P.O. box.		
	City, state or provine	ce, and country (if not U.S	.). Include ZIP code or postal code where appropriate.		
3	11	nsferor Transf	eree	1	
4a	Name of withholding	g agent (see instructions)		b Identification nu	mber
c	Name of estate, trus	t, or entity (if applicable)		d Identification nu	mber
5	Address where you	want withholding certifical	te sent (street address, apt. or suite no., P.O. box, or rural route number)	Phone number (option	nal)
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6		J.S. real property tra			
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		Taxpayer	Other person required to withhold. Specify your ti		

 Signature
 Title (if applicable)
 Date

 For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the instructions.
 Cat. No. 10128Z
 Form 8288-B (Rev. 8-2013)