Contact your lender to determine what the lender's requirements are
Determine pricing for settlement and related fees and make available to clients
Comply with ALTA's Forms Licensing requirements
Compile list of licenses held by attorneys and staff members (Florida Bar, Licensed Title Agents, Notary, etc.)
Draft your Best Practices Manual!
Reconcile trust accounts monthly
Keep checks in a secure, locked location
Set up positive pay and ACH blocks
Store and lock written and electronic real estate files while not in use
Password protect all computers
Make a file of all professional liability insurance declarations pages and surety and fidelity bonds
Record electronically, if available, or no later than 2 days after closing
Use Policy Express - Checkout by issuing policies at closing
Designate a single point of contact for consumer complaints
Create and keep a log of consumer complaints

IMPLEMENTATION/ACTION ITEMS

Get familiar with the new Closing Disclosure Form Resources: Fund webinar ¹ ; CFPB website ²
Get familiar with the new 3 day rule for delivery of the CD to the consumer How are the days counted? What are the acceptable forms of delivery? Resources: ALTA.org ³ ; Fund webinar ¹
Examine your internal office procedures for handling residential closings How does this need to change to meet the new timing for preparation and delivery of the Closing Disclosure to the consumer? How will you keep track of appropriate deadlines?
Plan the time needed for you and your staff to get trained Schedule time to view and discuss Fund webinars ⁴ Allocate time to attend Fund Assembly and/or Affiliate Assembly Schedule time for training on your software Review vacation and other time off already on the calendar
Monitor and keep track as lenders are announcing their policy for preparation and delivery Which lenders do you commonly work with? Know what they are going to do Review all memos from lenders posted on the Fund Readiness page ⁵
Reach out to your real estate referral base Talk with them about the upcoming changes Use this as an opportunity to market your services as a qualified and expert closing agent
Be prepared for an increase in the vetting process Best Practices Manual Assign a staff member with the responsibility for responding to vetting requests

Resources:

- 1-www.the fund.com/Member/Education/On-Demand-Video-Library/Legal-Education/CFPBClosingDisclosure.aspx
- 2 www.consumerfinance.gov
- 3 www.alta.org
- 4 www.thefund.com/Public/Education/Fundinars.aspx
- 5 www.thefund.com/readiness

