

## History of homes don't have to be disclosed by realtors

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BIRCH RUN, MI (WNEM) - A charming swing sways in the cool breeze on the front porch of a small two-bedroom home, but that gentle breeze belies the pain and embarrassment felt by the people inside.

"It was so bad, we almost moved," said Michael Stiger, owner of the home.

Stiger and his wife Bethany said the embarrassment caused by a police raid and hazmat crews scouring their home was almost too much to take.

"People thought there was a meth lab here and there wasn't. The water was checked, the downstairs was checked. They did find drugs on them people, but I can't remember their names cause I don't know them," Michael Stiger said.

The Stigers let a couple and their baby live in their basement for two weeks. That was supposed to be enough time to get back on their feet and find a place.

They were all arrested for smoking meth in the basement on Thanksgiving day five years ago.

"Cause it was my property and I was responsible. At the same time I didn't know, they were kinda tricky people," Michael Stiger said.

Michael Stiger was never convicted of any felony drug charges, but he said he's facing a lifelong sentence as long as he chooses to live in the home. However, selling the home brings its own set of problems.

"Five years later, that concerns me a little bit. I need to figure out what to do with this," he said.

A couple clicks of the mouse on the drug enforcement agency's website and anyone could find the Stigers' home listed as a registered meth home in Saginaw County.

Homes are listed because meth contamination can have serious health effects for its occupants if not professionally cleaned by hazmat crews.

Ryan Seifferlein, a realtor in Michigan, said you don't have to legally disclose whether or not the home may have been a former drug house. He doesn't even have to tell the interested tenants if someone was murdered inside the home.

"It would legally have to be cleaned up in order to be listed for sale or else at that point it would still not be livable, necessarily. Once it's been cleaned though you don't legally have to disclose it," Seifferlein said.

Seifferlein said thankfully, he hasn't run in to any situations like that. However, he said potential buyers need to get online, do some research and ask their realtor questions.

"There's a lot of things we don't have to disclose, but if it's asked, then you disclose it," he said.

The Stigers said they just want it all behind them.

The couple, along with their little pup Rocky have learned to enjoy the cool breeze on their front porch swing. A breeze they hope will carry the dark secrets of their home to a distant memory.

"I forgave. That's what God said to do and we went on with our life," Michael Stiger said.

>>>[Slideshow: Faces of meth; before and after photos](#)<<<

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