

## WHEN A RETIREMENT DREAM HOME BECOMES A LEGAL NIGHTMARE - PART 2

**David Mapley - Financial Fraud Investigator**



The previous 'When a retirement dream home becomes a legal nightmare' article dealt with owner/realtor misrepresentation, and negligent conveyancing by the lawyer. I can happily report that this matter is now being pursued by the police and public prosecutor.

Read *When a retirement dream home becomes a legal nightmare - Part 1*

[HERE.](#)

Yet another story springs up... drought and a scorching hot summer were too much temptation for local farmers, when a ready supply of water was available at someone else's cost. A new property owner became aware of possible water stealing, and investigated how this could happen.

First discovery - his water meter wasn't at his property, it was 400 metres away, located above a dry gully with a 3 metre drop below it. Almost impossible to access, for turning on/off and reading. A real "Health and Safety" issue for any TaviraVerde employee.

Second discovery - the water meter and water pipes, above ground, all passed over 2 neighbours' lands, one with a freshly irrigated young orchard. The pipes had a section that could be disconnected in 2 minutes (and re-connected to a hose...), and due to exposure to the weather and constant tampering, were leaking.


Third discovery - he was paying for water measured at the meter, probably 5x what he was actually receiving.

Fourth discovery - his lawyer, who acted for him on the purchase, overlooked the remote water meter completely. Oops!!!

The owner contacted TaviraVerde, who visited and agreed that the water meter was dangerously positioned. The agreed to relocate the meter, and bury the water pipes for 400 metres, at a cost to the property owner. He of course, refuses to pay this.

Under Portuguese law the owner has notified the (ex-) lawyer and the realtor that there is a defect, which they must rectify - radio silence.

Meanwhile, facing € 100 bills each month for an estimated € 20 of usage, the water continues to leak out. TaviraVerde refuse to provide requested historic data on past 3 years usage (for 2 people full-time resident versus 1 person part-time), so a standoff has occurred.

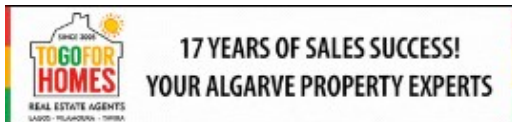
The owner has referred the matter to the lawyer/realtor to work with TaviraVerde to fix the situation, and referred the lawyer to the Ethics Committee of the Bar Association for not ing his job and making sure he does his job.

Moral of the story - don't trust your lawyer, especially if buying a property in the countryside.

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computer. This decision can be reversed.

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