

LEARN THE FACTS ABOUT LOAN MODIFICATION

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"The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up."

-Paul Valery-

Almost daily, a client, or a prospective client calls me asking about a loan modification.

They want to know if I can endorse a particular company that is doing loan modifications, or if my office is handling loan modifications.

As everyone knows by now, the real estate market in California is down and is not likely to recover anytime soon. With millions of U.S. homeowners behind on mortgage payments, the pool of people desperate for help is huge.

Unfortunately, many companies have emerged, making promises to help people save their home or stave off foreclosure. They charge thousands of dollars and promise one way or another to help you modify your loan.

You should be very skeptical of anyone who demands money up-front and makes promises that they can save your home. The problem of unscrupulous companies taking advantage of California homeowners has caused the California Department of Real Estate to issue a Consumer Alert on Advance Fees and Loan Modification Services.

Before you decide to hire any company to help you try to save your home, please go to the Department of Real Estate (DRE) web site: www.dre.ca.gov. In the search engine box (at the top right-hand of the screen) enter: Loan Modification. The link will take you to the Consumer Alert posted by DRE. Review it carefully! The information contained on the website can help you avoid falling prey to one of the many real estate scams that are operating.

On numerous occasions I have met with a client who told me about a company who was offering to help him or her modify a loan, only to discover the company was being sued for fraud (a simple search on the county superior court website can yield this information).

The Treasury Department and the Department of Housing and Urban Development have launched a website that provides basic information for troubled homeowners about the Obama administration's "Making Home Affordable" program. Please go to the site, www.makinghomeaffordable.gov.

Getting a loan modified is a long and difficult process. To date, no lender is actually required by law to do anything to help you. Be careful who you hire to help you in applying for a loan modification. Do your homework and make sure you know someone who has used the company before and was happy with their work.

For more information, please call my office at **714.547.3361**.