

5 Things to Know about **FORECLOSURE**



1.

Get help now! Don't wait to find legal help.

A lawyer can help before you are even served and might help you avoid court. Visit [FloridaLawHelp](#) to find a legal aid office to help you.

2.

Just because you fell behind on your mortgage doesn't mean the bank can automatically take back your house.

An attorney can make arguments to defend you from foreclosure.

You can also go to mediation. There are alternatives like short sales to prevent a foreclosure.

3.

Keep track of the different letters and notices you receive from the bank.

First you should receive a notice showing that you are behind in your payments and giving you a date to pay. You may also receive a demand letter trying to get your late mortgage payment. Finally, you will receive a complaint and summons for court.

4.

Once you receive a complaint from your lender, you have 20 days to respond.

If not, you will not be able to defend yourself in the lawsuit. Pay attention to dates on all the mail you receive from your bank or the court. Be careful not to miss any filing deadlines. Get help from a lawyer filing your answer so you do not miss any opportunities raise defenses or file future motions.

5.

Still owe money? Even if you walk away from a house, have a short sale or the house is foreclosed, the bank could still make you pay. If the house is now worth less than your mortgage, the bank may try to get money to pay the difference.

Be sure to ask your attorney for ways to avoid a “deficiency judgment”.