

**The Kenosha and Racine Mortgage
Foreclosure Mediation Program**
1010 – 56th Street, 2nd Floor, Kenosha, WI 53140

Finding Solutions

Notice of Availability of Mediation

What is the foreclosure mediation program?

A foreclosure mediation program is available to assist homeowners facing a mortgage foreclosure action in Kenosha and Racine Counties. Mediation is a confidential and voluntary process where you and the lender seeking to foreclose on your home may discuss ways to resolve your foreclosure case, including reinstatement of the loan and modification of the loan terms.

You must live in and own the property that is subject to the foreclosure action to qualify for mediation under this program. The property must have four units or less.

Mediation in this program is a two-step process. First, the homeowner works with a qualified housing counselor to prepare a proposal for mediation. After the proposal is prepared, a trained mediator is assigned to meet with the homeowner and the lender to help them reach agreement. Any discussions in mediation are confidential. Mediation is typically scheduled within 60 days of the date the application is received.

How does the homeowner apply for foreclosure mediation?

In Kenosha and Racine Counties, the Summons and Complaint served on the homeowner must contain notice of the availability of mediation and an application form. Forms are also available on the Kenosha and Racine Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program website at <http://foreclosure.kenoshacounty.org>. The forms must be printed on pink colored paper.

A homeowner requesting mediation should follow the directions on the form and send the mediation application form to the Kenosha and Racine Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program. The homeowner should request mediation within 15 days of receiving the Summons, but mediation may be available even after that date.

Is participation in mediation required?

Participation is voluntary for the homeowner/borrower and lender. Sometimes, lenders will choose not to participate in mediation. Some reasons lenders may not participate include situations where mortgages were previously refinanced or modified under programs such as HARP and HAMP or when prior modifications didn't work out.

How can the Housing Counselor help?

In order to increase the chance of success at mediation, the homeowner must meet with a qualified housing counselor. Housing counselors are specially trained and certified to go over financial information with the homeowner and to discuss programs that may be available to avoid foreclosure.

When a homeowner requests mediation, they are matched with a housing counselor in their area. That housing counselor will help the homeowner gather information needed to look for programs that may be available and prepare a proposal for the meeting with the mediator and the lender. If a homeowner fails to take this step, they will lose their eligibility for mediation.

What does mediation cost?

There is a \$25.00 non-refundable fee collected at the submittal of application from the homeowner and the \$75.00 non-refundable fee balance is to be paid ten days following the lender's acceptance to mediate. Once the case is scheduled for mediation, the lender must pay a non-refundable fee of \$200.00 ten days following the mediation scheduling letter. **Cash, cashier's check or money order payments are accepted at the first floor of the County Administration Building Treasurer's Office located at: 1010 – 56th Street, Kenosha, WI 53140.** Please mention you are in the Foreclosure program when making payment. **Personal checks or credit cards not accepted.**

Does the foreclosure stop during the mediation process?

Even after applying for mediation, the homeowner is required to comply with all mandatory deadlines set by the court, including the time to answer the Complaint. Please read the Summons and Complaint and make sure you understand your rights and the time period for filing an Answer or Responsive Pleading. If you do not file an Answer or Responsive Pleading, the court may grant judgment against you and you may lose your right to object to anything that you disagree with in the Complaint.

Does the homeowner need a lawyer to participate in the mediation program?

While everyone is always strongly encouraged to be represented by an attorney, homeowners are not required to be represented by an attorney. You can contact the State Bar of Wisconsin Lawyer Referral and Information Service to obtain the names of attorneys who may be able to assist you: <http://www.legalexplorer.com> or by telephone at (608) 257-3838. The referral system is open Monday-Friday from 8:10 a.m.-5 p.m. (CT).

Who must attend the mediation session?

The mediation session must be attended in person by all homeowners. A representative of the lender must also attend in person. The servicer will attend by telephone. Either party may have other support persons such as attorneys, loan officers and tax advisers, available by phone.