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Media Release

June 5, 2009

Mortgage Fraud Task Force takes action to protect homeowners

Informational workshops, statewide hotline, and new online resources for homeowners announced

Wilmington, DE – The Delaware Attorney General’s office announced today that it has formed a Mortgage Fraud Task Force to help homeowners stay in their homes. In conjunction with the Delaware State Housing Authority and the Office of the State Bank Commissioner, the Task Force is dedicated to reducing foreclosure and foreclosure-related fraud statewide by:

- Providing information about mortgages and the foreclosure process
- Directing homeowners to certified housing counselors and agencies that offer free services
- Linking homeowners with state and federal programs that provide mortgage assistance
- Taking aggressive law enforcement action against foreclosure scams

“During this difficult economic time when foreclosures are reaching new records, the Attorney General’s Mortgage Fraud Task Force, along with its partners, is taking a leading role in directing homeowners to the services available to help them stay in their homes, stated Timothy Mullaney, Director of the Attorney General’s Fraud and Consumer Protection Division. “We are also taking new steps to protect homeowners against foreclosure scams.”

Homeowners who are worried about missing a mortgage payment, are facing foreclosure, or who suspect a foreclosure scam are encouraged to call the **Attorney General's Mortgage Hotline at 1-800-220-5424**. This hotline serves as a central statewide resource for homeowners who seek information about government programs for homeowners, want to connect with a certified housing counselor, are looking for upcoming housing workshops, and want to report foreclosure scams.

The Mortgage Fraud Task Force, in conjunction with the Delaware Banking Commissioner’s Office and the Delaware State Housing Authority, is sponsoring Housing Workshops in locations statewide on June 26 and 27, 2009. Workshops will take place at the following times and locations:

Date	Time	Location	Address	County
Friday, June 26	3 - 7 pm	St. John’s United Methodist Church	300 N. Pine St. Seaford	Sussex
Saturday, June 27	8 am - 12 noon	Modern Maturity Center	1121 Forrest Ave. Dover	Kent
Saturday, June 27	1 - 5 pm	New Castle County Government Center, Gilliam Building	77 Read’s Way New Castle	New Castle

During each Workshop, State employees, counselors from HUD-approved housing agencies, and mortgage servicers will be available to meet with individuals to provide information on the Delaware Mortgage Assistance Program (DEMAP), mortgage modification, foreclosure, and foreclosure rescue scams.

The Attorney General's Office also announced that it has launched a new mortgage foreclosure website for consumers at www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/mortgageforeclosure. The site features a broad range of information about government programs, counseling services, fraud-prevention tips, and other resources for Delaware homeowners.

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