

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Housing and Community Development



Dear District of Columbia Tenant/Renter:

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is deeply concerned about the foreclosure crisis facing many District of Columbia residents. We are writing to let you know that assistance and resources are available to help you remain in the place you call “home.”

As you may be aware, renters are now being affected by foreclosures almost as often as homeowners. The mortgage industry crisis has resulted in numerous foreclosed homes in our area. While most of the people affected are homeowners, many renters discover, *often with no warning*, that their rented house or apartment is now owned by a bank or financial institution. DHCD wants you to know your rights and how to exercise your rights when your landlord is in foreclosure.

If you have been notified that *your home* is in foreclosure, you should take the following steps immediately:

- (1) **Contact the District of Columbia Office of the Tenant Advocate**, at 1250 U Street, N.W., 4th Floor or call 719-6560.
- (2) **Contact one of DHCD’s grant-funded HUD-certified housing counseling agencies to receive free housing counseling assistance.** A list of community-based housing counseling agencies that are ready to assist you is listed at the conclusion of this letter.
- (3) **Contact a lawyer for advice.** *Free legal assistance is available from any of the following organizations:*
 - Legal Aid: (202) 628-1161
 - University Legal Services: (202) 547-4747
 - Bread for the City: (202) 265-2400
 - Legal Counsel for the Elderly: (202) 434-2120
 - Neighborhood Legal Services (202) 269-5100
- (4) **Additional free resources are available on DHCD’s website at www.dhcd.dc.gov under the button named “Foreclosure Prevention Resources.”**

(Over)

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the DHCD Housing Resource Center, which is located at 1800 Martin L. King, Jr., Avenue, S.E., on the first floor, or call (202) 442-9505.

Sincerely,

Leila Finucane Edmonds
Director

FREE assistance is available through the following HUD-certified housing counselors in the District:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Housing Counseling Services
(202) 667-7006 | 5. University Legal Services
(202) 547-4747 |
| 2. Latino Economic Development Corp.
(202) 588-5102 | 6. University Legal Services, Far NE at
Lloyd E. Smith Center
(202) 396-1201 |
| 3. Central American Resource Center
(202) 328-9799 | 7. Lydia's House
(202) 588-5102 |
| 4. University Legal Services at
DHCD Housing Resource Center
(202) 889-2196 | |