

Your Assistance Requested to Address Loan-Modification Scams **Scamsrobert.brothers@ct.gov**

As a fair housing advocate, you see first-hand the damage caused by unscrupulous and sometimes criminal third-party scammers, con-artists, and thieves purporting to offer loan modification services. Such scams compound the problems that homeowners face and complicate fair housing investigations.

The Department, as part of the Loan Modification Scam Prevention Network (the Network), is working to combat these scams, and I ask you to help in this fight.

Here's how you can help:

1. Ask the following two questions of each homeowner who reports lending discrimination:

- Did anyone offer to help modify your mortgage, either directly, through advertising, or by any other means such as a flyer?
- Were you guaranteed a loan modification or asked to do any of the following: pay a fee, sign a contract, redirect mortgage payments, sign over title to your property, or stop making loan payments?

2. Report scams to the Network

If the answers to both questions are yes, help the homeowner report the potential fraud. The complaint form is attached and can be filled out on line at <http://intake.preventloanscams.org>.

The Network is developing a national database that will support law enforcement efforts and provide a comprehensive picture of the loan modification scam crisis nationwide. Receiving complaints from throughout the country is crucial to this enforcement effort, and fair housing agencies, housing counselors, and other organizations are especially well-positioned to help homeowners report complaints. If you have any questions please contact Yolanda McGill at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, ymcgill@lawyerscommittee.org or call 202-662-8379.

3. Educate Borrowers to Avoid Scams

Go to www.loanscamalert.org to learn more about loan modification scams and become a partner. NeighborWorks America hosts the website as part of a comprehensive national media and outreach campaign. There you will find important information for homeowners and partners can access a toolkit of ready-made materials on loan scams.

Thank You.

John Trasviña
Assistant Secretary
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