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Facing foreclosure? Is bankruptcy an option for you?

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Bankruptcy is a perfectly legitimate way to stop foreclosures and repossessions, put an end to lawsuits, protect paychecks from

garnishments and regain control of your life. When filing for bankruptcy, it must be filed correctly in order to for it be successful. It is important to consult a bankruptcy attorney or debt relief lawyer in your area to ensure that you fully understand your options regarding bankruptcy and whether this is the best decision for your financial future.

Personal bankruptcy is filed either as a Chapter 7 or a Chapter 13:

Chapter 7—Liquidation—wipes out most of your debts and in return, you may have to give up some of your property. If you are considering a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy and you are behind in your mortgage, make certain that you first reach a loan modification/loan workout or refinance with your lender. In the Chapter 7 Bankruptcy there will not be a loan modification option of your existing mortgage and, therefore, if you

stop paying your mortgage you could lose your home. Your homestead is exempt. However, it can be foreclosed on if you do not pay.

Chapter 13—Reorganization—enables you to pay off all or a portion of your debts during a three to five year period, yet does not require you to give up any of your assets to pay creditors. As long as you keep making payments, creditors will not bother you for payment or continue the foreclosure against your property. In the Chapter 13 Bankruptcy you can save your house.

The following is a list of facts you should know about filing bankruptcy:

- Bankruptcy is a matter of public record.
- A credit counseling course and financial management course are required.
- Creditors will be prohibited from contacting you concerning your debt.
- Florida law will exempt certain assets.
- You may suffer some discrimination in future employment opportunities.
- A stigma may still be attached to filing bankruptcy.
- A record of filing for bankruptcy may remain on your credit profile for up to 10 years.

• By eliminating your debt in Chapter 7 or making payments in a Chapter 13, you will immediately improve your credit score.

In the midst of an economic crisis, please try not to forget the importance of life and your priorities. I have clients who are falling apart not only financially, but also emotionally and physically. Saving your home is not the only solution. A job is needed that can pay for the revised monthly payment. Activities to stimulate good health and family events to create memorable moments with children, family and friends are a must. Take all the necessary steps to preserve what is important to you by taking advantage all of your options. There are options available for you. And, more continue to come with evolving federal and state laws. Know your rights and know your options. Call an attorney today to guide you towards stabilizing your life.

For more information on foreclosure, loan modifications and bankruptcy, go to www.daniafernandez.com. Call the Law Offices of Fernandez & Associates, P.A., to schedule a FREE CONSULTATION with one of our attorneys at 305-254-4492 or 800-617-0525.