



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Contact:

Jalyne Strong (312) 603-5690
jrstrong@cookcountycourt.com

**CLERK DOROTHY BROWN ANNOUNCES: A SECOND CHANCE
FOR HOMEOWNERS TO HALT FORECLOSURE**

*Cook County Judge Issues Order for Case Management Call
Thousands of People May Be Able to Save Their Homes Through Mediation*

Chicago—The Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, announced that thousands of people with Cook County foreclosure cases will get a second chance to have their cases heard during the months of July and August, and some of them may be able to save their homes through mediation.

“Chancery Division Presiding Judge Dorothy Kinnaird issued an administrative order providing that a Case Management Call be set for the Mortgage Foreclosure section of all pending mortgage foreclosure cases filed prior to April 1, 2009,” said Clerk Brown, “I urge people who had cases in Cook County foreclosure court before April 1, 2009, to come to court for these special case management hearings.

“It is critically important for people in foreclosure, even if they are in default, to come to court for case management, especially people whose banks are not willing to do modifications,” said Clerk Brown, who pointed out that only 20% of borrowers ever appear in court in foreclosure proceedings.

“The majority of people in default did not file an appearance. If the borrower does not appear in court, a default judgment of foreclosure is entered,” she stressed. Of the 27,653 foreclosure judgments in Cook County last year, 25,561 were by default.

“However, if you show up to court, usually the judge will work with you and encourage your lender to work with you also. In fact, people who show up for the case management calls in July and August will automatically be given a 30 to 45-day continuance to allow them to go to the Pro Se Advice Desk for assistance with their cases.”

Clerk Brown noted that individuals do not need attorneys in order to come to the Case Management Calls. Defendants may also seek to have the \$188 appearance fee waived. A few of the issues case management hearings will consider are: Whether the necessary requirements have been met to foreclose; whether an Access to Justice attorney should be appointed; whether credit counseling is appropriate; and whether the case is appropriate for a court ordered mediation.

To find out if your case is on the Case Management Status Call for July and August 2009, you may go the Clerk’s Office Web site: www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org, click “Online Case Info” and search the Chancery Division Electronic Case Docket, or call the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit of Cook County Chancery Division at (312) 603-5133, (312) 603-3765 or (312) 603-6920. You may also visit the Pro Se Advice Desk in Room 1303 of the Daley Center, 50 W. Washington to view the Case Management Call List.