

State Attorney General seeks to refund victims of foreclosure fraud

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Victims of foreclosure fraud schemes by three Michigan companies will be able to receive refunds, state Attorney General Mike Cox announced today.

SaveMyHome USA, Payment Doctors and the Michigan Economic Reinstatement Program each pleaded no contest to one count of violating the Michigan Credit Services Protection Act, Cox said in a press release.

According to an undercover investigation by the Attorney General's office, the three companies charged borrowers upfront fees as part of mortgage modification assistance to homeowners facing foreclosure. Charging the fees upfront is prohibited by law, Cox said.

The companies claimed they would help homeowners keep their homes by working with their lenders, but in many cases, were unable to do so, and the victims could not get their money back.

The companies, which are based in southeast Michigan, had customers all around the state.

Any customer who paid fees to any of these companies for services that were not provided is asked to call the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (877) 765-8388.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL COX PROTECTS CONSUMERS FROM FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS

Cox Files 18 Counts for Foreclosure Rescue Fraud *Warns 17 other companies on consumer practices*

Attorney General Mike Cox has filed 18 charges against four companies and one individual for committing foreclosure rescue fraud.

Those charged include:

- **Save My Home USA of Madison Heights**
 - Four counts of violating the CSA (43rd District Court, Oakland County)
 - Charged victims between \$595 and \$2,000 before completion of services and advised consumers not to communicate with their mortgage company.

- **Help4homeowners of Birmingham**
 - Three counts of violating the CSA (48th District Court, Oakland County)
 - Falsely claimed a 97% success rate, charged before completion of services, and its employee admitted they had no loan training and did not have a high school degree or GED.

- **Payment Doctors of Livonia**
 - Two counts of violating the CSA (48th District Court, Oakland County)
 - Made false claims and charged before completion of services.

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Michigan Economic Reinstatement Program (MERP) of Livonia and owner Mark Alan Aloe of Farmington Hills

- Four counts of violating the CSA and one count of unauthorized use of the Great Seal of the State of Michigan (47th District Court, Oakland County)
- Charged victims between \$360 and \$3,000 before completion of services, made false claims, and used business cards with state seal but did not work for the State of Michigan. Aloe faces 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

Attorney General Cox also warned 17 other companies their practices **may be in violation of state law** and requested more information about their business practices:

- AFS Loan Modification Corp, Redondo Beach, CA
- Apply 2 Save, Inc./Apply2Save, Coeur D'Alene, ID
- Elect Group LLC, Deerfield Beach, FL
- Equity Recovery Services, Towson, MD
- Federal Home Savers, Comniack, NY
- Financial Solution Center, Corona, CA
- Fresh Start Home Modification, Woodbury Heights, NJ
- Fresh Start Program/Fresh Start Mortgage Assistance, Fresh Start Mortgage Solutions, Mortgage Assistance Solutions, Clearwater, FL
- Hope Now Modifications, LLC, Cherry Hill Twp., NJ
- IMC Financial, Clearwater, FL
- Kirkland Young LLC, Miami Beach, FL
- National Home Loan Assistance Program, San Diego, CA
- New Hope Loan Modification, Bellmawr, NJ
- Oceanview Investments, Oceanview Investment Services Corp., Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Peoples First Financial, San Diego, CA
- Pope & Associates Mortgage, Ontario, CA
- Savemtg.com, Galthersburg, MD

FORECLOSURE RESCUE CONSUMER INFORMATION

Foreclosure Rescue Companies prey on consumers facing foreclosure. These companies demand an up-front payment to "work" with your lender, and most never deliver the services as promised. In Michigan, the [Credit Services Protection Act](#) makes it illegal, in most cases, to take money up front in exchange for negotiating with your lender. Attorney General Cox protects you and all Michigan consumers by enforcing the [Credit Services Protection Act](#), and by informing Michigan consumers, through a consumer alert, about what to watch out for in order to avoid these types of scams. The consumer alert can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/printerFriendly/0,1687,7-164-17337_17291-215058--,00.html.

If you feel you may have been scammed, you should immediately file a complaint with Attorney General Cox's Consumer Protection Division. You can file your complaint online at: <https://secure1.state.mi.us/complaints/consumer.aspx>; or print out the form at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Consumer_Complaint_Form_-_Cox_1-2-03_74916_7.pdf and mail or fax to the Consumer Protection Division at:

**Consumer Protection Division
P.O. Box 30213-7713
Lansing, MI 48909**

Toll Free No: 1-877-765-8388

Facsimile: 517-241-3771

Whenever possible, the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division mediates these complaints. **Recently, the Division has mediated 29 complaints in an attempt to assist consumers, and hopefully obtain refunds.** Your complaints also help us spot patterns, so the Attorney General can track down these perpetrators and, if possible, bring action against them.

