



ATTENTION SECTION 8 VOUCHER HOLDERS

RE: New Law in Effect for Tenants Living in Rentals that are in Foreclosure

On May 20, 2009 a new federal law protecting your rights became a law.

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Tenants have new rights regarding eviction from units that have been foreclosed upon. The person, who now owns your home as a result of the foreclosure, must follow these rules:

- 1) If you have a lease for a fixed term, such as one year, and the lease has not expired, you have a right to remain in the unit and cannot be evicted (except for actions that you, members of your family or your guests take which constitute good cause) until the end of the lease term.
- 2) If your lease ends in less than 90 days the new owner may not evict you without giving you a minimum of 90 days notice.
- 3) The new owner wanting the property vacant before they sell it is not good cause for terminating the tenancy or for eviction.
- 4) There is one exception to the rule that you may not be evicted during the term of your lease. If new owner who acquired the property at foreclosure wants to occupy the unit as his or her primary residence, that owner may give you a 90 day notice to vacate your home even if your lease runs for longer than 90 days.

If the new owner tells you that you have to leave, offers you money to leave or gives you a notice of eviction, you should contact your Case Manager at Plymouth Housing Commission immediately. Tell your Case Manager what is happening and provide the Case Manager with copies of any notices, letters or information or any other form of communication. You may also contact the local legal services office at 313-964-5555.

If you have any questions regarding this notice please contact your Case Manager at Plymouth Housing Commission.

General Instructions for Tenants:

If you receive an improper notice to terminate your lease, you should give a letter objecting to the termination to your landlord before the date of termination in the notice you received, and you should continue to pay your rent. If you do not pay your rent, your landlord can serve you with a notice to pay rent or quit under state law and evict you for non-payment of rent.

If your landlord files an eviction complaint against you based upon the termination notice, you should put in your response to the court that the termination notice is improper because the landlord should have served you with a 90 days notice or could not evict you until the lease expired under the Protecting Tenants Foreclosure Act, Pub. L. No. 111-22 § 702 (2009).

You should make a copy of your letter for your records, send your letter to the new owner by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the address the new owner put on his/her notice to you. When you go to court in the eviction case, you should take with you copies of the letter you sent to your landlord, the original and copies of your proof of mailing and green return receipt from the post office, the copy of the new law that is attached to this notice and a copy of your written lease if you have a written lease.

The judge may not be aware of this law because it is so new, but if you tell the judge about the law it is his or her legal responsibility to enforce it, and make sure that you are not forced to move with less than 90 days notice or before the end of your lease term.

TITLE VII--PROTECTING TENANTS AT FORECLOSURE ACT

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the 'Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009'.

SEC. 702. EFFECT OF FORECLOSURE ON PREEXISTING TENANCY.

(a) In General- In the case of any foreclosure on a federally-related mortgage loan or on any dwelling or residential real property after the date of enactment of this title, any immediate successor in interest in such property pursuant to the foreclosure shall assume such interest subject to--

- (1) the provision, by such successor in interest of a notice to vacate to any bona fide tenant at least 90 days before the effective date of such notice; and
- (2) the rights of any bona fide tenant, as of the date of such notice of foreclosure--

- (A) under any bona fide lease entered into before the notice of foreclosure to occupy the premises until the end of the remaining term of the lease, except that a successor in interest may terminate a lease effective on the date of sale of the unit to a purchaser who will occupy the unit as a primary residence, subject to the receipt by the tenant of the 90 day notice under paragraph (1); or
- (B) without a lease or with a lease terminable at will under State law, subject to the receipt by the tenant of the 90 day notice under subsection (1),

except that nothing under this section shall affect the requirements for termination of any Federal- or State-subsidized tenancy or of any State or local law that provides longer time periods or other additional protections for tenants.

(b) Bona Fide Lease or Tenancy- For purposes of this section, a lease or tenancy shall be considered bona fide only if--

- (1) the mortgagor or the child, spouse, or parent of the mortgagor under the contract is not the tenant;
- (2) the lease or tenancy was the result of an arms-length transaction; and
- (3) the lease or tenancy requires the receipt of rent that is not substantially less than fair market rent for the property or the unit's rent is reduced or subsidized due to a Federal, State, or local subsidy.

(c) Definition- For purposes of this section, the term 'federally-related mortgage loan' has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2602).

SEC. 703. EFFECT OF FORECLOSURE ON SECTION 8 TENANCIES.

Section 8(o)(7) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(7)) is amended--

(1) by inserting before the semicolon in subparagraph (C) the following: 'and in the case of an owner who is an immediate successor in interest pursuant to foreclosure during the term of the lease vacating the property prior to sale shall not constitute other good cause, except that the owner may terminate the tenancy effective on the date of transfer of the unit to the owner if the owner--

- (i) will occupy the unit as a primary residence; and
- (ii) has provided the tenant a notice to vacate at least 90 days before the effective date of such notice.'; and

(2) by inserting at the end of subparagraph (F) the following: 'In the case of any foreclosure on any federally-related mortgage loan (as that term is defined in section 3 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2602)) or on any residential real property in which a recipient of assistance under this subsection resides, the immediate successor in interest in such property pursuant to the foreclosure shall assume such interest subject to the lease between the prior owner and the tenant and to the housing assistance payments contract between the prior owner and the public housing agency for the occupied unit, except that this provision and the provisions related to foreclosure in subparagraph (C) shall not affect any State or local law that provides longer time periods or other additional protections for tenants.'

SEC. 704. SUNSET.

This title, and any amendments made by this title are repealed, and the requirements under this title shall terminate, on December 31, 2012.