TITLE 2A. ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUBTITLE 6. SPECIFIC CIVIL ACTIONS CHAPTER 50. FORECLOSURE ARTICLE 5. FORECLOSURE OF RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-53 (2013)

§ 2A:50-53. Short title [Fair Foreclosure Act]

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Fair Foreclosure Act."

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-54 (2013)

§ 2A:50-54. Findings, declarations on payment of home mortgages

The Legislature hereby finds and declares it to be the public policy of this State that homeowners should be given every opportunity to pay their home mortgages, and thus keep their homes; and that lenders will be benefited when residential mortgage debtors cure their defaults and return defaulted residential mortgage loans to performing status.

§ 2A:50-55. Definitions

As used in this act:

"Deed in lieu of foreclosure" means a voluntary, knowing and uncoerced conveyance by the residential mortgage debtor to the residential mortgage lender of all claim, interest and estate in the property subject to the mortgage. In order for a conveyance to be voluntary, the debtor shall have received notice of, and been fully apprised of the debtor's rights as specified in section 4 of this act. For purposes of this act, "voluntarily surrendered" has the same meaning as "deed in lieu of foreclosure."

"Immediate family" means the debtor, the debtor's spouse, or the mother, father, sister, brother or child of the debtor or debtor's spouse.

"Non-residential mortgage" means a mortgage, security interest or the like which is not a residential mortgage. If a mortgage document includes separate tracts or properties, those portions of the mortgage document covering the non-residential tracts or properties shall be a non-residential mortgage.

"Obligation" means a promissory note, bond or other similar evidence of a duty to pay.

"Office" means the Office of Foreclosure within the Administrative Office of the Courts.

"Residential mortgage" means a mortgage, security interest or the like, in which the security is a residential property such as a house, real property or condominium, which is occupied, or is to be occupied, by the debtor, who is a natural person, or a member of the debtor's immediate family, as that person's residence. This act shall apply to all residential mortgages wherever made, which have as their security such a residence in the State of New Jersey, provided that the real property which is the subject of the mortgage shall not have more than four dwelling units, one of which shall be, or is planned to be, occupied by the debtor or a member of the debtor's immediate family as the debtor's or member's residence at the time the loan is originated.

"Residential mortgage debtor" or "debtor" means any person shown on the record of the residential mortgage lender as being obligated to pay the obligation secured by the residential mortgage.

"Residential mortgage lender" or "lender" means any person, corporation, or other entity which makes or holds a residential mortgage, and any person, corporation or other entity to which such residential mortgage is assigned.

§ 2A:50-56. Notice of intention to foreclose

- a. Upon failure to perform any obligation of a residential mortgage by the residential mortgage debtor and before any residential mortgage lender may accelerate the maturity of any residential mortgage obligation and commence any foreclosure or other legal action to take possession of the residential property which is the subject of the mortgage, the residential mortgage lender shall give the residential mortgage debtor notice of such intention at least 30 days in advance of such action as provided in this section.
- b. Notice of intention to take action as specified in subsection a. of this section shall be in writing, sent to the debtor by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, at the debtor's last known address, and, if different, to the address of the property which is the subject of the residential mortgage. The notice is deemed to have been effectuated on the date the notice is delivered in person or mailed to the party.
- c. The written notice shall clearly and conspicuously state in a manner calculated to make the debtor aware of the situation:
 - (1) the particular obligation or real estate security interest;
 - (2) the nature of the default claimed;
 - (3) the right of the debtor to cure the default as provided in section 5 of this act;
- (4) what performance, including what sum of money, if any, and interest, shall be tendered to cure the default as of the date specified under paragraph (5) of this subsection c.;
- (5) the date by which the debtor shall cure the default to avoid initiation of foreclosure proceedings, which date shall not be less than 30 days after the date the notice is effective, and the name and address and phone number of a person to whom the payment or tender shall be made;
- (6) that if the debtor does not cure the default by the date specified under paragraph (5) of this subsection c., the lender may take steps to terminate the debtor's ownership in the property by commencing a foreclosure suit in a court of competent jurisdiction;
- (7) that if the lender takes the steps indicated pursuant to paragraph (6) of this subsection c., a debtor shall still have the right to cure the default pursuant to section 5 of this act, but that the debtor shall be responsible for the lender's court costs and attorneys' fees in an amount not to exceed that amount permitted pursuant to the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey;
- (8) the right, if any, of the debtor to transfer the real estate to another person subject to the security interest and that the transferee may have the right to cure the default as provided in this act, subject to the mortgage documents;
- (9) that the debtor is advised to seek counsel from an attorney of the debtor's own choosing concerning the debtor's residential mortgage default situation, and that, if the debtor is unable to obtain an attorney, the debtor may communicate with the New Jersey Bar Association or Lawyer Referral Service in the county in which the residential property securing the mortgage loan is located; and that, if the debtor is unable to afford an attorney, the debtor may communicate with the Legal Services Office in the county in which the property is located;
- (10) the possible availability of financial assistance for curing a default from programs operated by the State or federal government or nonprofit organizations, if any, as identified by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance. This requirement shall be satisfied by attaching a list of such programs promulgated by the commissioner; and
- (11) the name and address of the lender and the telephone number of a representative of the lender whom the debtor may contact if the debtor disagrees with the lender's assertion that a default has occurred or the correctness of the mortgage lender's calculation of the amount required to cure the default.

- d. The notice of intention to foreclose required to be provided pursuant to this section shall not be required if the debtor has voluntarily surrendered the property which is the subject of the residential mortgage.
- e. The duty of the lender under this section to serve notice of intention to foreclose is independent of any other duty to give notice under the common law, principles of equity, State or federal statute, or rule of court and of any other right or remedy the debtor may have as a result of the failure to give such notice.
- f. Compliance with this section shall be set forth in the pleadings of any legal action referred to in this section. If the plaintiff in any complaint seeking foreclosure of a residential mortgage alleges that the property subject to the residential mortgage has been abandoned or voluntarily surrendered, the plaintiff shall plead the specific facts upon which this allegation is based.

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-56.1 (2013)

§ 2A:50-56.1. Statute of limitations relative to residential mortgage foreclosures

An action to foreclose a residential mortgage shall not be commenced following the earliest of:

- a. Six years from the date fixed for the making of the last payment or the maturity date set forth in the mortgage or the note, bond, or other obligation secured by the mortgage, whether the date is itself set forth or may be calculated from information contained in the mortgage or note, bond, or other obligation, except that if the date fixed for the making of the last payment or the maturity date has been extended by a written instrument, the action to foreclose shall not be commenced after six years from the extended date under the terms of the written instrument:
- b. Thirty-six years from the date of recording of the mortgage, or, if the mortgage is not recorded, 36 years from the date of execution, so long as the mortgage itself does not provide for a period of repayment in excess of 30 years; or
- c. Twenty years from the date on which the debtor defaulted, which default has not been cured, as to any of the obligations or covenants contained in the mortgage or in the note, bond, or other obligation secured by the mortgage, except that if the date to perform any of the obligations or covenants has been extended by a written instrument or payment on account has been made, the action to foreclose shall not be commenced after 20 years from the date on which the default or payment on account thereof occurred under the terms of the written instrument.

§ 2A:50-57. Curing of default

- a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, as to any residential mortgage for which a notice of intention to foreclose is required to be given pursuant to section 4 of this act, whether or not such required notice was in fact given, the debtor, or anyone authorized to act on the debtor's behalf, shall have the right at any time, up to the entry of final judgment or the entry by the office or the court of an order of redemption pursuant to subsection g. of section 11 of this act, to cure the default, de-accelerate and reinstate the residential mortgage by tendering the amount or performance specified in subsection b. of this section. The payment or tender shall be made to the person designated in the notice pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection c. of section 4 of this act. The debtor may exercise the right to cure a default as to a particular mortgage and reinstate that mortgage only once every 18 months, provided, however, that this limitation shall not apply if the mortgage debtor cures a default by the date specified in paragraph (5) of subsection c. of section 4 of this act. The 18-month time period shall run from the date of cure and reinstatement.
 - b. To cure a default under this section, a debtor shall:
- (1) pay or tender to the person identified pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection c. of section 4 of this act, in the form of cash, cashier's check, or certified check, all sums which would have been due in the absence of default, at the time of payment or tender;
- (2) perform any other obligation which the debtor would have been bound to perform in the absence of the default or the exercise of an acceleration clause, if any;
- (3) pay or tender court costs, if any, and attorneys' fees in an amount which shall not exceed the amount permitted under the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey; and
 - (4) pay all contractual late charges, as provided for in the note or security agreement.
- c. To cure a default under this section, a debtor shall not be required to pay any charge, fee or penalty attributable to the exercise of the right to cure a default as provided for in this act.
- d. Cure of a default reinstates the debtor to the same position as if the default had not occurred. It nullifies, as of the date of cure, any acceleration of any obligation under the mortgage, note or bond arising from the default.
- e. If a default is cured prior to the filing of a foreclosure action, the lender shall not institute a foreclosure action for that default. If a default is cured after the filing of a foreclosure action, the lender shall give written notice of the cure to the court. Upon such notice, the court shall dismiss the action without prejudice.
- f. The right to cure a default under this section is independent of any right of redemption or any other right or remedy under the common law, principles of equity. State or federal statute, or rule of court.

§ 2A:50-58. Application for entry of final judgment; entry of order of redemption

- a. (1) If a plaintiff's action to foreclose a residential mortgage is uncontested, pursuant to R.4:64-1(a) of the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey and the plaintiff chooses not to use the optional procedure for the disposition of foreclosed premises pursuant to section 11 [C.2A:50-63] of this act, a lender shall apply for entry of final judgment and provide the debtor with a notice, mailed at least 14 calendar days prior to the submission of proper proofs for entry of a foreclosure judgment, providing the debtor with the name and address of the lender and the telephone number of a representative of the lender whom the debtor may contact to obtain the amount required to cure the default, and advising that, absent a response from the debtor pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection a., proper proofs will be submitted for entry of final judgment in the foreclosure action and that upon entry of final judgment, the debtor shall lose the right, provided pursuant to section 5 [C.2A:50-57] of this act, to cure the default. The lender shall attach a copy of the required 14-day notice to the application for final judgment. The manner and address for mailing and the effective date of the notice shall be the same as set forth in subsection b. of section 4 [C.2A:50-56] of this act.
- (2) A debtor may, no later than 10 days after receipt of the notice required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, mail to the lender a statement in which the debtor in good faith certifies as true that there is a reasonable likelihood that the debtor will be able to provide payment necessary to cure the default within 45 days of the date the notice required pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection a. became effective. This statement shall be sent registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address of the lender who gave notice as required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.
- (3) A lender who receives a statement sent by the debtor pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection a., shall not submit proper proofs for entry of final judgment in foreclosure with a return date earlier than 46 days after the date the notice required pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection a. became effective.
- b. (1) If a plaintiff's action to foreclose a residential mortgage is uncontested, pursuant to R.4:64-1(a) of the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey and the lender chooses to use the optional procedure for the disposition of the foreclosed premises pursuant to section 11 [C.2A:50-63] of this act, the lender shall provide the debtor with a notice, mailed at least 14 calendar days prior to filing an affidavit or certification with the office or court pursuant to subsection f. of section 11 [C.2A:50-63] of this act. The notice shall provide the debtor with the name and address of the lender and the telephone number of a representative of the lender whom the debtor may contact to obtain the amount required to cure the default, and advise the debtor that, absent a response from the debtor pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection b., the lender shall file an affidavit or certification with the office or court requesting the office or court to enter an order of redemption and that upon the entry of the order of redemption the debtor shall lose the right provided pursuant to section 5 [C.2A:50-57] of this act, to cure the default. The lender shall attach a copy of the required 14-day notice to the affidavit or certification for filing with the office or court requesting the office or court to enter an order of redemption. The manner and address for mailing and the effective date of the notice shall be the same as set forth in subsection b. of section 4 [C.2A:50-56] of this act.
- (2) A debtor may, no later than 10 days after receipt of the notice required pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection b., mail to the lender a statement in which the debtor in good faith certifies as true that there is a reasonable likelihood that the debtor will be able to provide payment necessary to cure the default within 45 days of the date the notice required pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection b. became effective. This statement shall be sent registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address of the lender who gave notice as required pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection b.
- (3) A lender who receives a statement sent by the debtor pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection b., shall not file an affidavit or certification with the office or court earlier than 46 days after the date the notice required pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection b. became effective.

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-59 (2013)

§ 2A:50-59. Reinstatement of mortgage relationship

If a debtor is successful in curing the default under a repayment plan approved by the United States Bankruptcy Court, the residential mortgage relationship between the parties is reinstated, and the debtor is restored to the same position held before the default or acceleration.

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-60 (2013)

§ 2A:50-60. Federal law not limited, modified

Nothing herein is intended to limit or modify any provision of federal law regarding notice of the availability of homeownership counselling.

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-61 (2013)

§ 2A:50-61. Waivers against public policy, unlawful, void

Waivers by the debtor of rights provided pursuant to this act are against public policy, unlawful, and void, unless given after default pursuant to a workout agreement in a separate written document signed by the debtor.

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-62 (2013)

§ 2A:50-62. Nonapplicability of act

The provisions of sections 1 through 9 of this act shall not apply to the foreclosure of a non-residential mortgage nor to collection of the obligation by means other than enforcing the lender's lien on the residential property. A lender shall not be required to foreclose a residential mortgage and a non-residential mortgage securing the same obligation in the same proceeding.

§ 2A:50-63. Optional foreclosure procedure

- a. An optional foreclosure procedure without sale for the disposition of a foreclosed premises is hereby established pursuant to subsection b. of this section, wherein a lender may elect to proceed according to the provisions of this act and R.4:64-1(d) of the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey.
 - b. Use of the optional procedure without sale, as provided in this section, shall be permitted only when:
 - (1) the debtor has abandoned the property which is the subject of the residential mortgage;
- (2) the debtor has voluntarily surrendered the property which is the subject of the residential mortgage by signing a deed in lieu of foreclosure in favor of the lender; or
- (3) there is no equity in the property which is the subject of the residential mortgage, as defined in subsection e. of this section.
- c. Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection b. of this section, and for purposes of this section only, abandonment of the property subject to the residential mortgage shall be established by an affidavit or certification from an individual having personal knowledge of the contents thereof, setting forth the specific facts upon which that conclusion is based. The affidavit or certification shall be submitted to the office or the court at the same time that the lender applies to the office or the court for the order fixing the amount, time and place for redemption.
- d. Pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection b. of this section and for purposes of this section only, if the lender receives a deed in lieu of foreclosure, the conveyance shall be effective only if the deed clearly and conspicuously provides: that the debtor may, without penalty, rescind the conveyance within seven days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays; and that such recision is effective upon delivery of a written notice to the lender or its agent or upon mailing of such notice to the lender or its agent by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested.
- e. (1) For purposes of paragraph (3) of subsection b. of this section, a property subject to a residential mortgage shall be deemed to have no equity if the total unpaid balance of all liens and encumbrances against the property, including mortgages, tax liens and judgments actually against the property (not including similar name judgments), and any other lien, is equal to or greater than 92 percent of the fair market value of the property. An affidavit setting forth with specificity the fair market value of the property, the unpaid balance of the obligation, including all mortgages and liens and the method by which the lender determined that the property has no equity, shall be submitted to the office or the court at the time the lender applies for the order fixing the amount, time and place for redemption.
- (2) If a lender proceeds with the optional procedure under this subsection, and if the debtor has not objected and requested a public sale pursuant to this section, when the foreclosed property is resold by the lender following judgment and provided the resale price received by the lender is in excess of the amount necessary to repay the debt, interest and reasonable costs of the lender, and all carrying charges, including, but not limited to, the reasonable costs of maintenance and resale, the lender shall deposit any such excess in accordance with R.4:57 et seq. of the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey.
- (3) Upon deposit of any such excess with the Superior Court, the lender shall notify the debtor and any lien holder who held a lien junior to the lender and whose lien was lost in whole or in part as a result of the foreclosure. Such notification shall be by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the debtor and such lien holders. The debtor and the lien holders shall then have six months to make an application to the Superior Court, in the form of an application for surplus funds, upon appropriate notice to all other parties in interest, to seek an order for turnover of the excess funds. Failure of a lender to comply with the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection e. shall not affect title to the foreclosed property.

- f. (1) In accordance with the provisions of R.4:64-1(d) of the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey, and subject to compliance with the provisions of this act, a lender may elect to proceed with the optional procedure by filing an affidavit or certification with the office or the court.
- (2) The affidavit or certification shall set forth the facts which the lender alleges show that it is entitled to proceed under one or more paragraphs of subsection b. of this section and shall be supported by the proofs required by this section and such other proofs as may be required by the office or the court.
- g. In accordance with the provisions of R.4:64-1(d) of the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey, and subject to compliance with the provisions of this act, the office or the court may enter an order fixing the amount, time, and place for redemption, which shall be not less than 45 days nor more than 60 days after the date of the order. The office or the court may grant an extension of time for good cause shown. The order shall provide that:
- (1) the redeeming defendant pay to the plaintiff's attorney the amount fixed by the office or the court for redemption, together with interest to the date of redemption, plus all court costs;
- (2) redemption shall be by cash, cashier's check or certified check and made at the office of the plaintiff's attorney, if such office is located in the county where the property is situated, or at such other place as designated by the office or the court, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. of the date set by the office or the court in the order; and
- (3) in the absence of redemption, the defendants shall stand absolutely debarred and foreclosed from all equity of redemption.
- h. (1) The order for redemption or notice thereof shall be mailed to each defendant's last known address and, if different, also to the address of the property being foreclosed. The order for redemption or notice thereof shall be sent by ordinary mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, within 20 days after the date the order is entered, except that, as to defendants whose addresses are unknown and who were served by publication, no further publication of the order for redemption or notice thereof need be made.
 - (2) The notice shall:
- (a) inform the defendants that the plaintiff is proceeding under an optional procedure authorized by section 11 of this act and set out the steps of the optional procedure;
- (b) inform all defendants of the terms and conditions under which a defendant may request a public sale of the mortgaged premises pursuant to subsection i. of this section; and
- (c) clearly state that no request for a public sale made after 30 days from the date of service will be granted, except for good cause shown.
- i. In any matter in which the office or the court has issued an order for redemption and the lender is permitted to proceed by the optional procedure, a defendant who wishes to object to the optional procedure and request a public sale with respect to the mortgaged premises being foreclosed, shall submit to the office or the court a written request for a public sale within 30 days of the date the order or notice thereof is served. If a defendant requests a public sale within the required time period, and subject to compliance with the provisions of this act, the office or court shall enter a judgment of foreclosure which provides for a public sale of the premises in accordance with applicable law. Any such defendant who requests a public sale, other than a natural person who is the owner or a voluntary transferee from that owner, shall be required to post a cash deposit or bond prior to the date fixed for redemption. This cash deposit or bond shall be in an amount which is 10% of the amount found due in the order fixing the amount, time and place for redemption and shall be held to secure the plaintiff against any additional interest and costs, as well as any deficiency, as a result of the public sale. The office or the court may dispense with this requirement for good cause shown. The defendant who requests a public sale, other than a natural person who is the owner or a voluntary transferee from that owner, shall pay all expenses and costs associated with the public sale, including, but not limited to, all sheriff's fees and commissions.
- j. In the event of any dispute among defendants over the right to redeem, the court shall enter such order as is necessary to secure the plaintiff pending the resolution of the dispute, including, but not limited to, payment of plaintiff's additional interest and costs which accrue as a result of the dispute.

- k. Upon redemption, the plaintiff shall furnish the redemptioner with an appropriate certificate of redemption and the redemptioner shall acquire all rights provided by law and equity but shall not be entitled to a deed or title to the mortgaged premises solely by virtue of the redemption. A redemptioner in proper cases may proceed to foreclose the redemptioner's interest.
- 1. In the absence of redemption, and on proof of mailing of the order for redemption or notice thereof pursuant to subsection h. of this section and an affidavit of non-redemption, the plaintiff shall be entitled to a judgment debarring and foreclosing the equity of redemption of the defendants and each of them and any person claiming by, through or under them, and adjudging the plaintiff be vested with a valid and indefeasible estate in the mortgaged premises. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, redemption shall be permitted at any time up until the entry of judgment including the whole of the last day upon which judgment is entered. A certified copy of the judgment shall be accepted for recording by the county recording officer pursuant to P.L.1939, c.170 (*C.46:16-1.1*).
- m. Upon entry of a judgment vesting title in the plaintiff pursuant to subsection l. of this section, the debt which was secured by the foreclosed mortgage shall be deemed satisfied, and the plaintiff shall not be permitted to institute any further or contemporaneous action for the collection of the debt.

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-64 (2013)

§ 2A:50-64. Procedures for sale

- a. With respect to the sale of a mortgaged premises under foreclosure action, each sheriff in this State shall provide for, but not be limited to, the following uniform procedures:
 - (1) Bidding in the name of the assignee of the foreclosing plaintiff.
- (2) That adjournment of the sale of the foreclosed property shall be in accordance with *N.J.S. 2A:17-36*.
- (3) (a) The sheriff shall schedule a sale date within 120 days of the sheriff's receipt of any writ of execution issued by the court in any foreclosure proceeding.
- (b) If it becomes apparent that the sheriff cannot comply with the provisions of subparagraph (a) of this paragraph (3), the foreclosing plaintiff may apply to the office for an order appointing a Special Master to hold the foreclosure sale.
- (c) Upon the foreclosing plaintiff making such application to the office, the office shall issue the appropriate order appointing a Special Master to hold the foreclosure sale.
- (4) That the successful bidder at the sheriff's sale shall pay a 20 percent deposit in either cash or by a certified or cashier's check, made payable to the sheriff of the county in which the sale is conducted, immediately upon the conclusion of the foreclosure sale. If the successful bidder cannot satisfy this requirement, the bidder shall be in default and the sheriff shall immediately void the sale and proceed further with the resale of the premises without the necessity of adjourning the sale, without renotification of any party to the foreclosure and without the republication of any sales notice. Upon such resale, the defaulting bidder shall be liable to the foreclosing plaintiff for any additional costs incurred by such default including, but not limited to, any difference between the amount bid by the defaulting bidder and the amount generated for the foreclosing plaintiff at the resale. In the event the plaintiff is the successful bidder at the resale, the plaintiff shall provide a credit for the fair market value of the property foreclosed.
- (5) It is permissible, upon consent of the sheriff conducting the sheriff's sale, that it shall not be necessary for an attorney or representative of the person who initiated the foreclosure to be present physically at the sheriff's sale to make a bid. A letter containing bidding instructions may be sent to the sheriff in lieu of an appearance.
 - (6) That each sheriff's office shall use a deed which shall be in substantially the following form:

THIS INDENTURE,
made this
second part, witnesseth.
WHEREAS, on the
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY to the Sheriff of the County of
WHEREAS, on the
and the following named parties are the DEFENDANTS:
IT WAS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that certain mortgaged premises, with the appurtenances in the Complaint, and Amendment to Complaint, if any, in the said cause particularly set forth and described, that is to say: The mortgaged premises are described as set forth upon the RIDER ANNEXED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF.
BEING KNOWN AS Tax Lot (number) in Block (number) COMMONLY KNOWN AS (street address)
TOGETHER, with all and singular the rights, liberties, privileges, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof, and also all the estate, right, title, interest, use, property, claim and demand of the said defendants of, in, to and out of the same, to be sold, to pay and satisfy in the first place unto the plaintiff,
the sum of \$ (amount) being the principal, interest and advances secured by a certain mortgage dated (date, month, year) and given by (name) together with lawful interest from

until the same be paid and satisfied and also the costs of the aforesaid plaintiff with interest thereon.

THEREFORE, you are hereby commanded that you cause to be made of the premises aforesaid, by selling so much of the same as may be needful and necessary for the purpose, the said sum of \$ (amount) and the same you do pay to the said plaintiff together with contract and lawful interest thereon as aforesaid, and the sum aforesaid of costs with interest thereon.

And that you have the surplus money, if any there be, before our said Superior Court of New Jersey, aforesaid at Trenton, within 30 days after pursuant to *R.4:59-1(a)*, to abide the further Order of the said Court, according to judgment aforesaid, and you are to make return at the time and place aforesaid, by certificate under your hand, of the manner in which you have executed this our Writ, together with this Writ, and if no sale, this Writ shall be returnable within 12 months.

WITNESS, the Honorable (name), Judge of the Superior Cou Frenton, aforesaid, the (date) day of (month), (year).					
	/ s / (Clerk) Superior Court of New Jersey				
/s/ Attorney for Plaintiff					
As by the record of s	aid Writ of Execution in the Office of the Superior				

As by the record of said Writ of Execution in the Office of the Superior Court of New Jersey, at Trenton, in Book (number) of Executions, Page (number) etc., may more fully appear.

public vendue at the County (name) Building in
(name of town) on the (date) day of
, (month) (year) at the hour of
(time) in the (a.m. or p.m.).
WHEREUPON the said party of the second part bidding therefore for the same, the sum of \$
NOW, THEREFORE, This Indenture witnesseth, that I, the said
And, I, the said
Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of
Attorney at Law of New Jersey Assistant County Counsel
OT LTP OF NEW JEDGEV) 99
STATE OF NEW JERSEY) SS(county)
I, (name), Sheriff, of the County of

was by me sold by virtue of a good and subsisting execution (or as the case may be) as is therein recited, that the money ordered to be made has not been to my knowledge or belief paid or satisfied, that the time and place of the same of said real estate were by me duly advertised as required by law, and that the same was cried off and sold to a bona fide purchaser for the best price that could be obtained and the true consideration for this conveyance as set forth in the deed is \$ (amount).
(name), Sheriff
Sworn before me,
Attorney or Notary Public
STATE OF NEW JERSEY) ss(Name) County)
On this (date) day of (month), (year), before me, the subscriber,

.....nl Attorney or Notary Public

(End of Form)

- b. At the conclusion of the sheriff's sale, the attorney for the plaintiff may prepare and deliver to the sheriff a deed in the form provided pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection a. of this section for the sheriff's execution and the deed shall be delivered to the sheriff within 10 days of the date of the sale. The sheriff shall be entitled to the authorized fee, as a review fee, even if the plaintiff's attorney prepares the deed.
- c. The sheriff's office shall, within two weeks of the date of the sale, deliver a fully executed deed to the successful bidder at the sale provided that the bidder pays the balance of the monies due to the Sheriff by either cash or certified or cashier's check. In the event a bid is satisfied after the expiration and additional interest is collected from the successful bidder, the sheriff shall remit to the plaintiff the total amount, less any fees, costs and commissions due the sheriff, along with the additional interest.

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-65 (2013)

§ 2A:50-65. Provision of judgment creditor's address for service

Any judgment creditor shall, upon entry of judgment in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, provide the Court with its current address for service. If the judgment creditor's address for service changes, it shall be incumbent upon the judgment creditor to effect a change of address for service by filing an appropriate form with the court in a timely manner. If any judgment creditor fails to provide the Court with a current or change of address for service, in any foreclosure proceeding, the plaintiff may, without having to first make a more diligent inquiry or publish notice in a newspaper, serve the judgment creditor by ordinary mail and certified mail at the address that is reflected in the records of the Clerk of the Superior Court. The judgment creditor shall, if known, provide the Clerk of the Court with the judgment debtor's social security number or taxpayer identification number.

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-66 (2013)

§ 2A:50-66. Letter in lieu of appearance by Attorney General

- a. The United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey may send a letter to the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey which notes the appearance of the Attorney General of the United States and states that neither an answer will be filed nor a default opposed. This letter shall be accepted by the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey in lieu of an appearance by the Attorney General of the United States. The acceptance by the Clerk shall allow the foreclosing plaintiff to proceed as if the United States had filed a non-contesting answer.
- b. The Attorney General of New Jersey may send a letter to the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey which notes the appearance of the Attorney General of New Jersey and states that neither an answer will be filed nor a default opposed. This letter shall be accepted by the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey in lieu of an appearance by the Attorney General of New Jersey. The acceptance by the Clerk shall allow the foreclosing plaintiff to proceed as if the State of New Jersey had filed a non-contesting answer.

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-67 (2013)

§ 2A:50-67. Partial payment

In the absence of an express agreement between the parties to the contrary, a debtor may tender, and a lender may accept, partial payment of any sum owing and due without either party waiving any rights.

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-68 (2013)

§ 2A:50-68. Regulations

The Attorney General, in consultation with the Commissioner of Banking, shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (*C.52:14A-1* et seq.) necessary to implement this act, including, but not limited to, regulations governing the form and content of notices of intention to foreclose.

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-69 (2013)

§ 2A:50-69. Short title [N.J. Foreclosure Fairness Act]

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey Foreclosure Fairness Act."

§ 2A:50-70. Notice to tenants, protection from eviction

a. A person who takes title, as a result of a sheriff's sale or deed in lieu of foreclosure, to a residential property containing one or more dwelling units occupied by residential tenants, shall provide notice to the tenants, in both English and Spanish, no later than 10 business days after the transfer of title, in accordance with the provisions of subsection c. of this section. The notice shall be in the following form:

NOTICE TO TENANTS

THE FORMER OWNER OF	(insert property
address) HAS LOST THE PROPERTY AS A RESULT O	F A FORECLOSURE. FROM THE TIME YOU
RECEIVE THIS AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, YOU	J SHOULD PAY RENT TO
(insert na	me and address of person to whom rent is due).
PLEASE SEND RENT BY (insert method of	transmission) ON THE (insert
day) OF EACH MONTH.	,

WITH LIMITED EXCEPTIONS, THE NEW JERSEY ANTI-EVICTION ACT, N.J.S.A.2A:18-61.1 ET SEQ., PROTECTS YOUR RIGHT TO REMAIN IN YOUR HOME. FORECLOSURE ALONE IS NOT GROUNDS FOR EVICTION OF A TENANT. YOU ARE PROTECTED BY THIS LAW EVEN IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A WRITTEN LEASE.

THE NEW OWNER CANNOT EVICT YOU WITHOUT "GOOD CAUSE," AS DETERMINED BY A COURT. EXAMPLES OF "GOOD CAUSE" ARE FAILURE TO PAY RENT, WILLFULLY DAMAGING THE PREMISES, OR PERSONAL OCCUPANCY BY THE NEW OWNER OF THE HOUSE OR APARTMENT THAT YOU NOW LIVE IN.

A RESIDENTIAL TENANT IN NEW JERSEY CAN BE EVICTED ONLY THROUGH A COURT PROCESS. ONLY A COURT OFFICER WITH A COURT ORDER MAY REMOVE YOU FROM THE PREMISES, AND ONLY AFTER YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND YOURSELF IN COURT.

INDIVIDUALS CAN BE SUBJECT TO BOTH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR TRYING TO FORCE YOU TO LEAVE YOUR HOME IN ANY OTHER MANNER, INCLUDING SHUTTING OFF UTILITIES OR OTHER VITAL SERVICE OR FAILING TO MAINTAIN THE PREMISES. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, ACCEPT FINANCIAL COMPENSATION FOR LEAVING VOLUNTARILY IF THE NEW OWNER OFFERS SUCH COMPENSATION.

IF SOMEONE IS PRESSURING YOU TO LEAVE, CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY.

- b. (1) The notice required pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall be printed in no less than 14 point bold point type, on paper at least eight and one-half inches by 11 inches in size, and shall contain contact information, including the name, mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number of the new owner or a person authorized to act on behalf of the new owner.
- (2) The Department of Community Affairs shall prepare and make available for distribution, both in print and in an easily printable format on the department's Internet website, a notice in English with a Spanish translation that may be used by the new owner or person authorized to act on behalf of the new owner to satisfy the notice requirements of this section.
- c. (1) In buildings containing 10 or fewer dwelling units, the new owner shall make a good faith effort to obtain the names of all tenants occupying the property for which a notice is required pursuant to subsection a. of this section. The notice shall be addressed to tenants by name; provided, however, that in the event a good faith search fails to identify the tenant by name, the new owner shall address the notice required pursuant to subsection a. of this section to "Tenant." The new owner shall post the notice prominently on the front door of each tenant's unit and send the notice to each tenant via certified and regular mail.

- (2) In a residential property containing more than 10 dwelling units, the new owner shall provide notice to tenants occupying the property for which notice is required pursuant to subsection a. of this section by causing a copy of the notice to be conspicuously displayed in a prominent place in a common area of each residential building or structure on the property. If there is no common area, the notice shall be posted in a conspicuous location in each building or structure on the premises, including, but not limited to the walls of the front vestibule or any foyer or hallway near the main entrance of the building or structure.
- d. Any person taking title to the residential property as a result of a sheriff's sale or deed in lieu of foreclosure, or that person's agent or employee, shall provide a copy of the notice as set forth in subsection a. of this section with the initial and final written or verbal communication to a tenant for the purposes of inducing a tenant to vacate the property in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of P.L.2009, c.296 (C.2A:50-71).
- e. Service on any tenant of a summons and complaint in an action to foreclose a mortgage on any residential property by any person, or the initial written or verbal communication by a foreclosing creditor to a tenant in a residential property subject to ongoing foreclosure proceedings, or any written or verbal communication that seeks to induce the tenant to vacate the property prior to the transfer of the property through sheriff's sale or a deed in lieu of foreclosure, shall include a copy of the notice regarding residential tenant rights during foreclosure as required by the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey, as adopted by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- f. Any person, or that person's agent or employee, who violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to the same civil remedies as are provided for in subsection a. of section 3 of P.L.1975, c.311 (C.2A:18-61.6), or, at the tenant's sole discretion, damages in the amount of \$ 2,000 per violation, plus attorney's fees and costs. Nothing in this subsection shall limit the liability, either civil or criminal, of a person, or a person's agent or employee, who violates any other law or regulation.

§ 2A:50-71. Inducing tenant to vacate property prohibited

- a. No person, or the person's agent or employee, who has filed a complaint in an action to foreclose a mortgage on a residential property, as described in section 2 of P.L.2009, c.296 (*C.2A:50-70*), or who takes title to a residential property as a result of a sheriff's sale or other transaction following the filing of a complaint in an action to foreclose a mortgage on the property shall make any communication to induce the tenant to vacate the property except through a bona fide monetary offer, which shall be made in accordance with the provisions of subsections d. and e. of section 2 of P.L.2009, c.296 (*C.2A:50-70*). A tenant shall have five business days from the date of receipt of any bona fide monetary offer to vacate the property in order to accept or reject the offer. An acceptance of an offer by a tenant shall be in writing, and include an affirmative acknowledgement of the date of receipt of the offer, and an understanding that the tenant had a five-day review period as required by this subsection to accept or reject the offer presented.
- b. No person, or the person's agent or employee, who has filed a complaint in an action to foreclose a mortgage on a residential property, as described in section 2 of P.L.2009, c.296 (*C.2A:50-70*), or who takes title to a residential property as a result of a sheriff's sale or other transaction following the filing of a complaint in an action to foreclose a mortgage on the property shall, during the pendency of the foreclosure proceeding or within one year of the transfer of title following such proceeding, take any action placing pressure on a tenant to accept any offer to vacate the property, including, but not limited to:
- (1) Mischaracterizing or misrepresenting the rights of the tenant under the Anti-Eviction Act, P.L.1974, c.49 (*C.2A:18-61.1* et seq.), or any other State law or municipal ordinance;
- (2) Implying the tenant is obligated to accept an offer or implying consequences against the tenant for failing to accept an offer;
- (3) Any form of tenant harassment, including, but not limited to, discontinuance of electricity, heat, or other utilities, failure to maintain the common areas or facilities of the property, or any other failure to maintain the premises in a habitable condition;
- (4) Implementing an increase in rent in excess of any governing municipal rent control or rent leveling ordinance, or in the event the property is not subject to rent control, an increase in rent exceeding the limitation imposed by the Anti-Eviction Act, P.L.1974, c.49 (*C.2A:18-61.1* et seq.) or any other State or federal law or municipal ordinance.
- c. Any person, their agent or employee, who violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to the civil remedies provided for in subsection a. of section 3 of P.L.1975, c.311 (*C.2A:18-61.6*), or, at the tenant's sole discretion, damages in the amount of \$ 2,000 per violation, plus attorney's fees and costs. Nothing in this subsection shall limit the liability, either civil or criminal, of a person, or a person's agent or employee, who violates any other law or regulation.

N.J. Stat. § 2A:50-72 (2013)

§ 2A:50-72. Supersedure

The provisions of any regulation, ordinance, rule, or resolution of any municipality, county or other subdivision of the State, or any agency or instrumentality of that municipality, county or other subdivision, relating to foreclosure practices, or the extension, delay, forbearance or imposition of moratorium periods concerning foreclosures, are superseded by the provisions of the "Save New Jersey Homes Act of 2008," P.L.2008, c.86 (*C.46:10B-36* et seq.) and the forbearance and nuisance abatement provisions of the "Mortgage Stabilization and Relief Act," P.L.2008, c.127 (*C.55:14K-82* et al.).

§ 2A:50-73. Summary action to foreclose mortgages on certain properties [Operative April 1, 2013]

- a. For the purposes of this section, "vacant and abandoned" residential property means residential real estate with respect to which the mortgagee proves, by clear and convincing evidence, that the mortgaged real estate is vacant and has been abandoned. Real property shall be deemed "vacant and abandoned" if the court finds that the mortgaged property is not occupied by a mortgagor or tenant as evidenced by a lease agreement entered into prior to the service of a notice of intention to commence foreclosure according to section 4 of the "Fair Foreclosure Act," P.L.1995, c.244 (*C.2A:50-56*), and at least two of the following conditions exist:
 - (1) overgrown or neglected vegetation;
 - (2) the accumulation of newspapers, circulars, flyers or mail on the property;
 - (3) disconnected gas, electric, or water utility services to the property;
 - (4) the accumulation of hazardous, noxious, or unhealthy substances or materials on the property;
 - (5) the accumulation of junk, litter, trash or debris on the property;
 - (6) the absence of window treatments such as blinds, curtains or shutters;
 - (7) the absence of furnishings and personal items;
- (8) statements of neighbors, delivery persons, or government employees indicating that the residence is vacant and abandoned:
- (9) windows or entrances to the property that are boarded up or closed off or multiple window panes that are damaged, broken and unrepaired;
 - (10) doors to the property that are smashed through, broken off, unhinged, or continuously unlocked;
- (11) a risk to the health, safety or welfare of the public, or any adjoining or adjacent property owners, exists due to acts of vandalism, loitering, criminal conduct, or the physical destruction or deterioration of the property;
- (12) an uncorrected violation of a municipal building, housing, or similar code during the preceding year, or an order by municipal authorities declaring the property to be unfit for occupancy and to remain vacant and unoccupied;
- (13) the mortgagee or other authorized party has secured or winterized the property due to the property being deemed vacant and unprotected or in danger of freezing;
- (14) a written statement issued by any mortgagor expressing the clear intent of all mortgagors to abandon the property;
 - (15) any other reasonable indicia of abandonment.
- b. For the purposes of this section, a residential property shall not be considered "vacant and abandoned" if, on the property:
- (1) there is an unoccupied building which is undergoing construction, renovation, or rehabilitation that is proceeding diligently to completion, and the building is in compliance with all applicable ordinances, codes, regulations, and statutes;
 - (2) there is a building occupied on a seasonal basis, but otherwise secure; or
- (3) there is a building that is secure, but is the subject of a probate action, action to quiet title, or other ownership dispute.

- c. In addition to the residential mortgage foreclosure procedures set out in the "Fair Foreclosure Act," P.L.1995, c.244 (*C.2A:50-53* et seq.), a summary action to foreclose a mortgage debt secured by residential property that is vacant and abandoned may be brought by a lender in the Superior Court. In addition, a lender may, at any time after filing a foreclosure action, file with the court, in accordance with the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey, an application to proceed in a summary manner because the residential property that is the subject of the foreclosure action is believed to be "vacant and abandoned"; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to a foreclosure of a timeshare interest secured by a mortgage.
- d. (1) In addition to the service of process required by the Rules of Court, a lender shall establish, for the entry of a residential foreclosure judgment under this section, that a process server has made two unsuccessful attempts to serve the mortgagor or occupant at the residential property, which attempts must be at least 72 hours apart, and during different times of the day, either before noon, between noon and 6 P.M., or between 6 P.M. and 10 P.M.
- (2) In addition to any notices required to be served by law or the Rules of Court, a lender shall, with any order to show cause served as original service of process or a motion to proceed summarily, serve a notice that the lender is seeking, on the return date of the order to show cause, or on the date fixed by the court, to proceed summarily for entry of a residential foreclosure judgment because the property is vacant and abandoned.
- (3) When a property is deemed vacant and abandoned as herein defined, a lender shall not be required to serve the debtor with the notice to cure required by section 6 of the "Fair Foreclosure Act," P.L.1995, c.244 (*C.2A*:50-58).
- e. (1) The court may enter a final residential mortgage foreclosure judgment under this section upon a finding, (a) by clear and convincing evidence, that the residential property is vacant and abandoned as defined under subsection a. of this section, and (b) that a review of the pleadings and documents filed with the court, as required by the Rules of Court, supports the entry of a final residential mortgage foreclosure judgment.
- (2) A final residential mortgage foreclosure judgment under this section shall not be entered if the court finds that:
 - (a) the property is not vacant or abandoned; or
- (b) the mortgagor or any other defendant has filed an answer, appearance, or other written objection that is not withdrawn and the defenses or objection asserted provide cause to preclude the entry of a final residential mortgage foreclosure judgment.
- f. If a final residential mortgage foreclosure judgment under this section is not entered on the original or adjourned return date of an order to show cause or the date fixed by the court to proceed summarily, the court may direct that the foreclosure action continue on the normal track for residential mortgage foreclosure actions for properties that are not vacant and abandoned and the notice to cure served with the order to show cause or the order fixing that date for the matter to proceed summarily shall be of no effect.
- g. All actions brought to foreclose on real property pursuant to this section shall proceed in accordance with the Rules of Court.
- h. Nothing in this section is intended to supersede or limit other procedures adopted by the Court to resolve residential mortgage foreclosure actions, including, but not limited to, foreclosure mediation.
- i. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the rights of a tenant to possession of a leasehold interest under the Anti-Eviction Act, P.L.1974, c.49 (*C.2A:18-61.1* et seq.), the "New Jersey Foreclosure Fairness Act," P.L.2009, c.296 (*C.2A:50-69* et seq.), or any other applicable law.
- j. Notwithstanding paragraph (3) of subsection a. of section 12 of P.L.1995, c.244 (*C.2A:50-64*) to the contrary, if the court makes a finding in the foreclosure judgment that the property is vacant and abandoned, the sheriff shall sell the property within 60 days of the sheriff's receipt of any writ of execution issued by the court. If it becomes apparent that the sheriff cannot comply with the provisions of this subsection, the foreclosing plaintiff may apply to the court for an order appointing a Special Master or judicial agent to hold the foreclosure sale.