

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Middlesex County Clerk Says Help Is Available for Homeowners Facing Foreclosure

**JULY 31, 2008** – Middlesex County Clerk Elaine M. Flynn has announced that help and information is available for homeowners facing foreclosure.

“As news reports have shown, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of mortgage foreclosures due to the sub-prime mortgage crisis, predatory lending and the loss of jobs,” Flynn said. “These are uncertain times for many homeowners and they need to know help is available.”

While homeowners are encouraged to consult an attorney, Flynn said individuals may also seek help from New Jersey State Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs and the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance.

Flynn said the departments have developed materials to assist homeowners in need of guidance. Materials include downloadable booklets, frequently asked questions and schedules of seminars, all of which are available in English and Spanish.

The Department of Banking and Insurance has set up a toll-free hotline (1-800-446-7467) to offer guidance, direction and the schedules and locations of foreclosure seminars.

Both Departments have web sites that contain links for refinancing programs through the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency and credit counseling.

Information is available at:

[www.state.nj.us/oag/ca/foreclosures.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/oag/ca/foreclosures.htm)

and

[www.state.nj.us/dobi/division\\_consumers/finance/foreclose\\_subprime.html](http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/division_consumers/finance/foreclose_subprime.html)

Specialty brochures also are available:

Foreclosure Scams and How to Avoid Them

[www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/brief/foreclosure.pdf](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/brief/foreclosure.pdf)

Foreclosure Surplus Funds Scams

[www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/brief/surplus.pdf](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/brief/surplus.pdf)