



Stop and Look Both Ways... Don't Get Hit by These Real Estate Scams!



Reducing Property Tax Assessments for a Fee

Homeowners are being solicited by companies, claiming they can reduce their property tax assessments for a fee. While they have "official" sounding names, property tax reassessment is a free service provided by county tax assessors.

If homeowners believe their property value has declined, and they believe that they are paying too much in property taxes, they should contact their county tax assessor to review the property value.

Homeowners who believe they have been a victim of this type of scam should contact the California Attorney General's Office by either calling 1-800-952-5225 or by writing to P.O. Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244.



Advanced Fees for Loan Modification

Homeowners, who are behind in their mortgage payments, may be contacted by individuals or companies offering to modify their loan terms to avoid foreclosure. Be wary of anyone requesting an advanced fee to negotiate a modification of terms with your lender --and always be cautious of someone who is contacting you first "out of the blue."

There are a variety of non-profit agencies, who can assist you with loan modification without charging a fee. For more information about such agencies located in Orange County, you may visit: www.OCAR.org/ForeclosurePrevention.asp for a partial list.

Additionally, if you are seeking more information on advanced fees and who can collect them, please visit the California Department of Real Estate's website: www.dre.ca.gov/mlb_adv_fees.html



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