

Model Tribal Mortgage Lending Code

Commentary: This Attachment sets forth general procedures for mortgages and foreclosures. It is designed to meet the needs of mortgage loan guarantee, insurance and direct loan programs sponsored by the U. S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture (Rural Housing) and Veterans Affairs. These Federal Agencies offer various mortgage loan programs which are designed to provide homeownership opportunities to Native Americans wishing to live on an Indian reservation or within an Indian area (as defined within each Agency's program requirements).

A. Lien Priority All mortgage loans recorded in accordance with the recording procedures set forth in this Attachment, including Leasehold Mortgages, and including loans made, guaranteed, insured or held by a governmental agency, shall have priority over any lien not perfected at the time of such recording and any subsequent lien or claim excepting a lien or claim arising from a tribal leasehold tax assessed after the recording of the mortgage. (In those cases where the government direct, guaranteed or insured mortgage is created as a second mortgage, the loan shall assume that position.)

B. Recording of Mortgage Loan Documents

- (1) The Tribal Recording Clerk shall maintain in the Tribal Real Estate program a system for the recording of mortgage loans and such other documents as the Tribe may designate by laws or resolution.
- (2) The Tribal Recording Clerk shall endorse upon any mortgage loan or other document received for recording:
 - (a) The date and time of receipt of the mortgage or other document;
 - (b) The filing number, to be assigned by the Tribal Recording Clerk, which shall be a unique number for each mortgage or other document received and;
 - (c) The name of the Tribal Recording Clerk or designee receiving the mortgage or document.

Upon completion of the above-cited endorsements, the Tribal Recording Clerk shall make a true and correct copy of the mortgage or other document and shall certify the copy as follows:

_____ Tribe)
)ss.
 Indian Reservation)

I certify that this is a true and correct copy of a document received for recording this date.

Given under my hand and seal this _____ day of _____.

(SEAL) _____ (Signature)

(Date)

The Tribal Recording clerk shall maintain the copy in the records of the recording system and shall return the original of the mortgage loan or other document to the person or entity that presented the same for recording.

(3) The Tribal Recording Clerk shall also maintain a log of each mortgage loan or other document recorded in which there shall be entered: (a) The name(s) of the Borrower/Mortgagor of each mortgage loan, identified as such; (b) The name(s) of the Lender/Mortgagee of each mortgage loan, identified as such; (c) The name(s) of the grantor(s), grantee(s) or other designation of each party named in any other documents filed or recorded; (d) The date and time of the receipt; (e) The filing number assigned by the Tribal Recording Clerk; and (f) The name of the Tribal Recording Clerk or designee receiving the mortgage or document.

(4) The certified copies of the mortgage loan and other documents and the log maintained by the Tribal Recording Clerk shall be made available for public inspection and copying. Rules for copying shall be established and disseminated by the Tribal Recording Clerk.

(5) All mortgages will be recorded with the BIA in addition to any Tribal recording provisions.

Commentary: The federal agencies noted above recognize that Indian tribes are required to have mortgages filed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). It is optional whether or not the tribe houses its Recording department within a "Tribal Real Estate" program. The tribe is free to place the Recording function in any tribal department it wishes.

C. Foreclosure Procedures

(1) A Borrower/Mortgagor shall be considered to be in default when he or she is thirty (30) days past due on his or her mortgage payment(s) or is in violation of any covenant under the mortgage for more than 30 days to the Lender/Mortgagee (i.e. the 31st day from the payment due date).

When a Borrower/Mortgagor is thirty days past due on his or her mortgage and before any foreclosure action or activity is initiated, the Lender/Mortgagee shall complete the following:

- (a) Make a reasonable effort to arrange a face-to-face interview with the Borrower/Mortgagor. This shall include at least one trip to meet with the Borrower/Mortgagor at the mortgaged property.
- (b) Lender/Mortgagee shall document that it has made at least one phone call to the Borrower/Mortgagor (or the nearest phone as designed by the Borrower/Mortgagor, able to receive and relay messages to the Borrower/Mortgagor) for the purpose of trying to arrange a face-to-face interview.

- (3) Lender/Mortgagee may appoint an agent to perform the services of arranging and conducting the face-to-face interview specified in this action.
- (4) When the Borrower/Mortgagor is past due on three installment payments and at least ten (10) days before initiating a foreclosure action in Tribal Court, the Lender shall advise the Borrower/Mortgagor in writing by mail or by posting prominently on the unit, with a copy provided to the Tribe, as follows:
- (a) Advise the Borrower/Mortgagor that information regarding the loan and default/delinquency will be given to credit bureaus.
 - (b) Advise the Borrower/Mortgagor of homeownership counseling opportunities/programs available through the Lender or otherwise.
 - (c) Advise the Borrower/Mortgagor of other available assistance regarding the mortgage/default.
 - (d) In addition to the preceding notification requirements, the Lender/Mortgagee shall complete the following additional notice requirements (i) notify the Borrower/Mortgagor that if the Leasehold Mortgage remains past due on three installment payments, the Lender/Mortgagee may ask the applicable governmental agency to accept assignment of the Leasehold Mortgage if this is an option of the governmental program; (ii) notify the Borrower/Mortgagor of the qualifications for forbearance relief from the Lender/Mortgagee, if any, and that forbearance relief may be available from the government; and (iii) provide the Borrower/Mortgagor with names and addresses of government officials to whom further communications may be addressed, if any.
- (5) If a Borrower/Mortgagor is past due on three or more installment payments and the Lender/Mortgagee has complied with the procedures set forth in the first part of this Section, the Lender/Mortgagee may commence a foreclosure proceeding in the Tribal Court by filing a verified complaint as set forth in Section D. of this Code.

Commentary: The proceeding Section C sets forth foreclosure procedures designed to meet all of the foreclosure procedure requirements currently established under the mortgage loan programs sponsored by the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture and Veterans Affairs (collectively referred to as Federal Agency). However, under HUD's Section 248 mortgage insurance program, lenders have the option of assigning the mortgage to HUD rather than initiating foreclosure. If the lender exercises its option to assign the mortgage to HUD, it must comply with the requirements of the regulations at 24 CFR part 203.

- D. Foreclosure Complaint and Summons (1) The verified complaint in a mortgage foreclosure proceeding shall contain the following: (a) The name of the Borrower/Mortgagor and each person or entity claiming through the Borrower/Mortgagor subsequent to the recording of the mortgage loan, including each Subordinate Lienholder (except the Tribe with respect to a claim for a tribal leasehold), as a defendant; (b) A description of the property subject to the mortgage loan; (c) A concise statement of the facts concerning the execution of the mortgage loan and in the case of a Leasehold Mortgage the lease; the facts concerning the recording of the mortgage loan or the Leasehold Mortgage; the facts concerning the alleged default(s) of the Borrowers/Mortgagor; and such other facts as may be necessary to constitute a cause of action; (d) True and correct copies of each

promissory note, mortgage, deed of trust or other recorded real property security instrument (each a "security instrument") and any other documents relating to the property and if a Leasehold Mortgage, a copy of the lease and any assignment of any of these documents; and (e) Any applicable allegations concerning relevant requirements and conditions prescribed in (i) federal statutes and regulations (ii) tribal codes, ordinances and regulations; and/or (iii) provisions of the promissory note, security instrument and if a Leasehold Mortgage, the lease. (2) The complaint shall be verified by the Tribal Court Clerk along with a summons specifying a date and time of appearance for the Defendant(s).

E. Service of Process and Procedures. Any foreclosure complaint must be in writing, and must be delivered to the Borrower/Mortgagor in the following manner:

- (1) Delivery must be made by an adult person and is effective when it is: (a) Personally delivered to a Borrower/Mortgagor with a copy sent by mail, or (b) Personally delivered to an adult living in the property with a copy sent by mail, or (c) Personally delivered to an adult agent or employee of the Borrower/Mortgagor with a copy sent by mail.
- (2) If the notice cannot be given by means of personal delivery, or the Borrower/Mortgagor cannot be found, the notice may be delivered by means of:
 - (a) Certified mail, return receipt requested, at the last known address of the Borrower/Mortgagor, or
 - (b) Securely taping a copy of the notice to the main entry door of the property in such a manner that it is not likely to blow away, and by posting a copy of the notice in some public place near the premises, including a tribal office, public store, or other commonly-frequented place and by sending a copy first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the Borrower/Mortgagor at the premises.
- (3) The person giving notice must keep a copy of the notice and proof of service in accordance with this section, by affidavit or other manner recognized by law.

F. Cure of Default Prior to the entry of a judgment of foreclosure, any Borrower/Mortgagor or a Subordinate Lienholder may cure the default(s) under the Mortgage by making a full payment of the delinquency to the Lender/Mortgagee and all reasonable legal and Court costs incurred in foreclosing on the property. Any subordinate Lienholder who has cured a default shall thereafter have included in its lien the amount of all payments made by such Subordinate Lienholder to cure the default(s), plus interest on such amounts at the rate stated in the note for the mortgage. There shall be no right of redemption in any Leasehold Mortgage Foreclosure proceeding.

Commentary: This Section F. does not allow for a "right of redemption." The "right of redemption" if provided in a Foreclosure Code allows a Borrower/Mortgagor to redeem (purchase) his/her foreclosed property after it has been sold at a foreclosure sale. Most state foreclosure laws have very strict time limits on how long a Borrower/Mortgagor has to redeem his/her property after a foreclosure sale, when the right to redeem will be allowed, and notice requirements that must be given the Borrower/Mortgagor following the sale of his/her foreclosed property. Because the right of redemption can be very specialized the drafters of this model Code will leave to the discretion of the tribe whether or not to incorporate a "right of redemption" and under what terms. If a "right of redemption" is included, it will be necessary for the tribe to seek approval in a separate process from each of the Federal Agencies noted.

G. Judgment and Remedy This matter shall be heard and decided by the Tribal Court in a prompt and reasonable time period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of service of the Complaint on the Borrower/Mortgagor. If the alleged default has not been cured at the time of trial and the Tribal Court finds for the Lender/Mortgagee, the Tribal Court shall enter judgment:

- (1) Foreclosing the interest of the Borrower/Mortgagor and each other defendant, including Subordinate Lienholder, in the mortgaged property and
- (2) Granting title to the property to the Lender/Mortgagee or the Lender's Designated Assignee; in the case of a Leasehold Mortgage, the Lease and the Leasehold Estate will be assigned to the Lender/Mortgagee or the Lender's Designated Assignee, subject to the following provisions:
 - (a) The lender shall give the Tribe the right of first refusal on any acceptable offer to purchase the Lease and the Lessee's leasehold interest in the property described in the lease which is subsequently obtained by the Lender or Lender's Designated Assignee.
 - (b) The Lender or Lender's Designated Assignee may only transfer, sell or assign the Lease and Lessee's leasehold interest in the property described in the Lease to a Tribal member, the Tribe, or the Tribal Housing Authority;
 - (c) The mortgagee has the right to convey the leasehold interest to the Secretary of HUD without providing the right of first refusal to the Tribe for Section 248.

H. Foreclosure Evictions Foreclosure evictions shall be handled according to the general eviction process set forth below.

- (1) Jurisdiction. The provisions of this section H. shall apply to all persons and property subject to the governing authority of the Tribe as established by the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Code, or applicable federal law.
- (2) Unlawful Detainer. A Lessee, Sublessee, or other occupant of a Leasehold Estate subject to a Leasehold Mortgage shall be guilty of unlawful detainer if such person shall continue in occupancy of such Leasehold Estate without the requirement of any notice by the Lessor, after such person's Leasehold Estate has been foreclosed in a Leasehold Mortgage foreclosure proceeding in the Tribal Court;
- (3) Complaint and Summons. The lender or Federal Agency (which made, guaranteed or insured the mortgage loan) as appropriate, shall commence an action for unlawful detainer by filing with the Tribal Court, in writing, the following documents:
 - (a) A complaint, signed by the lender or Federal Agency, or an agent or attorney on their behalf:
 - i. Citing facts alleging jurisdiction of the Tribal Court;
 - ii. Naming as defendants the mortgagors and any other record owner (including Sublessees and subordinate lienholders), of which the complainant has record notice (except the Tribe with respect to a claim for a Tribal tax on the Leasehold Estate subject to the Leasehold Mortgage);
 - iii. Describing the Leasehold Estate subject to the Leasehold Mortgage;

- iv. Stating the facts concerning (1) the execution of the lease and the Leasehold Mortgage; (2) the recording of the Leasehold Mortgage; and (3) the facts upon which he or she seeks to recover;
- v. Stating any claim for damages or compensation due from the persons to be evicted; and
- vi. Otherwise satisfying the requirements of the Tribal Court.

(b) A copy of the summons, issued in accordance with established Tribal Court rules and procedures, requiring the defendants to file a response to the complaint by the date specified in the summons. The deadline specified in the summons for filing a response shall be no less than 6 nor more than 30 days from the date of service of the summons and complaint. The summons shall notify the defendants that judgment will be taken against them in accordance with the terms of the complaint unless they file a response with the court by the date specified in the summons.

(4) Service of Summons and Complaint. A copy of the summons and complaint shall be served upon the defendants in the manner provided by the Tribal Court rules for service of process in civil matters. In the absence of such Tribal Court rules, the summons and complaint shall be served by one of the following two methods.

(5) Procedures for Service of Notice. Notices required or authorized in the immediately preceding section shall be given in writing either by:

- (a) Delivering a copy personally to the Borrower/ Mortgagor or to any other occupant under color of law, or to any adult residing on the Leasehold Estate and, if applicable, to any Sublessee; or
- (b) Posting said notice in a conspicuous place near the entrance to said Leasehold Estate, and sending an additional copy to the Lessee or to any other occupant under color of law, and, if applicable, to the Sublessee, by certified mail, return receipt requested, properly addressed, postage paid. Proof of service may be made by affidavit of any adult person stating the he has complied with the requirements of one of the above methods of service.

(6) Power of the Tribal Court. The Tribal Court shall enter an Order of Repossession if:

- (a) Notice of suit is given by service of summons and complaint in accordance with the procedures provided herein; and
- (b) The Tribal Court shall find during pre-trial proceedings or at trial that the Lessee, Sublessee, or other occupant under color of law of the Leasehold Estate subject to the Leasehold Mortgage is guilty of an act of unlawful detainer.

Upon issuance of an Order of Repossession, the Tribal Court shall have the authority to enter a judgment against the defendants for the following, as appropriate: (1) back rent, unpaid utilities, and any charges due the Tribe, Tribal Housing Authority, other public Housing Authority, or Sublessor under any sublease or other written agreement (except for a Leasehold Mortgage); (2) any and all amounts secured by the Leasehold Mortgage that are due the lender (or Federal Agency); and (3) damages to the property caused by the defendants, other than ordinary wear and tear. The Tribal Court shall have the

authority to award to the prevailing party its costs and reasonable attorney's fees in bringing suit.

- (7) Enforcement. Upon issuance of an Order of Repossession by the Tribal Court, Tribal law enforcement officers shall help plaintiffs enforce same by evicting the defendants and their property from the unlawfully occupied Leasehold Estate. In all cases involving the lender or Federal Agency, the Order of Repossession shall be enforced no later than 45 days after a pre-trial proceeding or trial in which the Tribal Court finds against defendants, subject to Paragraph H7 below, and provided, that no party exercised the right to cure a default or right of first refusal as described in Paragraphs F and G above.
- (8) Continuances in Cases Involving the Lender or Federal Agency (which originally made, insured or guaranteed) the mortgage loan. Except by agreement of all parties, there shall be no continuances in cases involving the lender or Federal Agency that will interfere with the requirement that the Order of Repossession be enforced not later than 45 days after a pre-trial proceeding or trial in which the Tribal Court finds against defendants, subject to the sound discretion of the Court.

I. No Merger of Estates There shall be no merger of estates by reason of the execution of a Lease or a Leasehold Mortgage or the assignment or assumption of the same, including an assignment adjudged by the Tribal Court, or by operation of law, except as such merger may arise upon satisfaction of the Leasehold Mortgage.

J. Certified Mailing to Tribe

In any foreclosure proceedings on a Leasehold Mortgage where the Tribe is not named as a defendant, a copy of the summons and complaint shall be mailed to the Tribe by certified mail, return receipt requested, within five (5) days after the issuance of the summons. If the lessor is not the tribe, this notice will also be mailed to the lessor at the same time the notice is mailed to the tribe. If the location of the lessor cannot be ascertained after reasonable inquiry, a copy of the summons and complaint shall be mailed to the lessor in care of the Superintendent of the applicable agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

K. Intervention

The Tribe or any Lessor may petition the Tribal Court to intervene in any Lease or Leasehold Mortgage foreclosure proceeding under this Code. Neither the filing of a petition for intervention by the Tribe, nor the granting of such petition by the Tribal Court shall operate as a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the Tribe, except as may be expressly authorized by the Tribe.

L. Appeals

Appeals under this Code shall be handled in accordance with the general tribal appellate provisions.