IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER 2011-67 (rescinds Administrative Order Nos. 2009-18 and 2010-10)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER FOR CASE MANAGEMENT OF RESIDENTIAL FORECLOSURE CASES AND MANDATORY REFERRAL OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE CASES INVOLVING HOMESTEAD RESIDENCES TO MEDIATION

Whereas, pursuant to Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the chief judge of each judicial circuit is charged with the authority and power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice, and rule 2.215(b)(3), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, mandates the chief judge to "develop an administrative plan for the efficient and proper administration of all courts within the circuit;" and

Whereas, rule 2.545 of the Rules of Judicial Administration requires that the trial courts "...take charge of all cases at an early stage in the litigation and...control the progress of the case thereafter until the case is determined...", which includes "...identifying cases subject to alternative dispute resolution processes;" and

Whereas, Chapter 44, Florida Statutes, and rules 1.700-1.750, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, provide a framework for court-ordered mediation of civil actions, except those matters expressly excluded by rule 1.710(b), which does not exclude residential mortgage foreclosure actions; and

Whereas, residential mortgage foreclosure case filings increased substantially in recent years in the First Judicial Circuit, and state and county budget constraints have limited the ability of the courts in the First Judicial Circuit to manage these cases in a timely manner; and

Whereas those filings dropped artificially in October 2010 due to the "robo signing" issue and related discharge of some of the major firms handling plaintiffs' foreclosure actions but are projected to rebound

substantially in the immediate future; and

Whereas, high residential mortgage foreclosure rates are damaging the economies of the counties in the First Judicial Circuit; and

Whereas, in <u>IN RE: Managed Mediation Program for Residential Rortgage Foreclosure Cases</u>, AOSC11-44, (Dec. 19, 2011), the Supreme Court of Florida terminated the mandatory mediation of homestead residential mortgage foreclosure programs required by <u>In re: Final Report and Recommendations on Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Cases</u> AOSC09-54 (Dec. 28, 2009), as clarified by <u>In Re: Guidance Concerning Managed Mediation Programs for Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Cases</u>, AOSC10-57 (Nov. 5, 2010), effective December 19, 2011; and

Whereas, the First Judicial Circuit has the most successful mandatory mediation of homestead mortgage actions under the aforementioned Supreme Court ordered program established pursuant to First Circuit Administrative Order 2010-01 (Feb. 26, 2010) which required mediation prior to the matter being set for final hearing facilitates the laudable goals of communication, facilitation, problem-solving between the parties with the emphasis on self-determination, the parties' needs and interests, procedural flexibility, full disclosure, fairness, and confidentiality. Referring these cases to mediation will continue to facilitate and provide a more efficient use of limited judicial and clerk resources in a court system that is already overburdened; and

Whereas, the Collins Center For Public Policy, Inc. is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that has demonstrable ability to assist the courts with managing the large number of residential mortgage foreclosure actions that recently have been filed in the First Judicial Circuit; and

Whereas, hundreds of individuals and families who have successfully mediated a resolution of a foreclosure case through the Collins Center managed program in this circuit and, as a consequence, have been able to remain in their homes when they would, otherwise, have lost their homes; and

Whereas, those properties have returned to active loans with the note

holder or servicer, have remained on the tax roles of the respective counties, and have been maintained when they likely would have become derelict, thus reducing property values of neighboring properties; and

Whereas, it is appropriate for the First Circuit in consultation with the local Bar, local judiciary, and other interested individuals or entities to conduct a local short term evaluation of whether First Circuit Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program should continue with or without modification or be terminated.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

Definitions

As used in this Administrative Order, the following terms mean:

"RMFM Program" (Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program) means the mediation program managed by the Collins Center For Public Policy, Inc. to implement and carry out the intent of this Administrative Order.

"The Program Manager" means the Collins Center For Public Policy, Inc., qualified in accordance with parameters attached as Exhibit 14. Also referred to as the "Mediation Manager."

"Plaintiff" means the individual or entity filing to obtain a mortgage foreclosure on residential property.

"Plaintiff's representative" means the person who will appear at mediation who has full authority to settle without further consultation and resolve the foreclosure suit.

"Borrower" means an individual named as a party in the foreclosure action who is a primary obligor on the promissory note which is secured by the mortgage being foreclosed.

"Homestead residence" means a residential property for which a homestead real estate tax exemption was granted according to the certified rolls of the last assessment by the county property appraiser prior to the filing of the suit to foreclose the mortgage.

"Form A" means the certifications required herein in the format of Exhibit 1 attached.

"Plaintiff's Disclosure for Mediation" means those documents requested by the borrower pursuant to paragraph 7 below.

"Borrower's Financial Disclosure for Mediation" means those documents described in Exhibit 5 attached.

"Foreclosure counselor" means a counselor trained in advising persons of options available when facing a mortgage foreclosure, who has no criminal history of committing a felony or a crime of dishonesty, and who is certified by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program (NFMC) as an agency experienced in mortgage delinquency and default resolution counseling.

"Communication equipment" means a conference telephone or other electronic device that permits all those appearing or participating to hear and speak to each other, provided that all conversation of the participants is audible to all persons present.

Scope

1. Residential Mortgage Foreclosures (Origination Subject to TILA). This Administrative Order shall apply to all residential mortgage foreclosure actions filed in the First Judicial Circuit in which the origination of the note and mortgage sued upon was subject to the provisions of the federal Truth in Lending Act, Regulation Z.¹ However, compliance with this Administrative Order varies depending on whether the property secured by the mortgage is a homestead residence.

Upon the effective date of this Administrative Order, all newly filed mortgage foreclosure actions filed against a homestead residence shall be referred to the RMFM Program unless the plaintiff and borrower agree in

¹ Condominium association and homeowner's association fee foreclosures and mechanics lien and construction lien foreclosures are not included in the RMFM Program.

writing otherwise or unless pre-suit mediation was conducted in accordance to paragraph 23. The parties to the foreclosure action shall comply with the conditions and requirements imposed by this Administrative Order. In actions to foreclose a mortgage on a homestead residence, the plaintiff and borrower shall attend at least one mediation session, unless the plaintiff and borrower agree in writing not to participate in the RMFM Program or the Program Manager files a notice of borrower nonparticipation.

Upon the effective date of this Administrative Order, all newly filed residential mortgage foreclosure actions involving property that is not a homestead residence shall comply with the requirements of filing a Form A as required by paragraph 5 below and the requirements of paragraph 18 below (plaintiff's certification as to settlement authority).

At the discretion of the presiding judge, compliance with this Administrative Order may also be required for homestead residential mortgage foreclosure actions filed prior to the effective date of this Administrative Order, to residences which are not homestead residences, and any other residential foreclosure action the presiding judge deems appropriate. A party requesting that the case be sent to mediation with the RMFM Program at the discretion of the presiding judge shall make the request in format of Exhibit 3 attached.

2. Referral to Mediation. This Administrative Order constitutes a formal referral to mediation pursuant to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure in actions involving a mortgage foreclosure of a homestead residence. The plaintiff and borrower are deemed to have stipulated to mediation by a mediator assigned by the Program Manager unless pursuant to rule 1.720(f), Florida Rules of Civil Procedure., the plaintiff and borrower file a written stipulation choosing not to participate in the RMFM Program. Referral to the RMFM Program is for administration and management of the mediation process and assignment of a Florida Supreme Court certified circuit civil mediator who has been trained in mediating residential mortgage foreclosure actions and who has agreed to be on the panel of available certified circuit civil mediators. Mediators used in the RMFM Program shall be trained in accordance with the standards stated in Exhibit 13 attached. Mediation through the RMFM Program shall be conducted in accordance with Florida Rules of Civil Procedure and Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators.

- 3. *Compliance Prior to Judgment*. The parties must comply with this Administrative Order and the mediation process must be completed before the plaintiff applies for default judgment, a summary judgment hearing, or a final hearing in an action to foreclose a mortgage on a homestead residence unless a notice of nonparticipation is filed by the Program Manager.
- 4. **Delivery of Notice of RMFM Program with Summons.** After the effective date of this Administrative Order, in all actions to foreclose a mortgage on residential property the clerk of court shall attach to the summons to be served on each defendant a notice regarding managed mediation for homestead residences in the format of Exhibit 2 attached.

Procedure

5. Responsibilities of Plaintiff's Counsel; Form A. When suit is filed, counsel for the plaintiff must file a completed Form A with the clerk of court. If the property is a homestead residence, all certifications in Form A must be filled out completely. Within one business day after Form A is filed with the clerk of court, counsel for plaintiff shall also transmit in the electronic format approved by the Chief Judge a copy of Form A to the Program Manager along with the case number of the action and contact information for all of the parties. The contact information must include at a minimum the last known mailing address and phone number for each party. The Program Manager shall notify plaintiff's counsel of any incomplete or seemingly inaccurate information and plaintiff's counsel shall provide correct information promptly. The Program Manager website address is http://www.collinscenter.org. The website address can also be obtained at http://www.FirstJudicialCircuit.org.

In Form A, plaintiff's counsel must affirmatively certify whether the origination of the note and mortgage sued upon was subject to the provisions of the federal Truth in Lending Act, Regulation Z. In Form A, plaintiff's counsel must also affirmatively certify whether the property is a homestead residence. Plaintiff's counsel is not permitted to respond to the certification with "unknown," "unsure," "not applicable," or similar nonresponsive statements.

If the property is a homestead residence and if the case is not exempted from participation in the RMFM Program because of pre-suit mediation conducted in accordance with paragraph 23 below, plaintiff's counsel shall further certify in Form A the identity of the plaintiff's representative who will appear at mediation. Plaintiff's counsel may designate more than one plaintiff's representative. At least one of the plaintiff's representatives designated in Form A must attend any mediation session scheduled pursuant to this Administrative Order. Form A may be amended to change the designated plaintiff's representative, and the amended Form A must be filed with the court no later than five days prior to the mediation session. All amended Forms A must be electronically transmitted to the Program Manager via a secure dedicated e-mail address or on the web-enabled information platform described in paragraph 8 no later than one business day after being filed with the clerk of court.

6. **Responsibilities of Borrower.** Upon the Program Manager receiving a copy of Form A, the Program Manager shall begin efforts to contact the borrower to explain the RMFM Program to the borrower and the requirements that the borrower must comply with to obtain a mediation. The Program Manager shall also ascertain whether the borrower wants to participate in the RMFM Program.

The borrower must do the following prior to mediation being scheduled: meet with an approved mortgage foreclosure counselor, and provide to the Program Manager the information required by the Borrower's Financial Disclosure for Mediation. The borrower must meet in person or by telephone with an approved mortgage foreclosure counselor no later than 30 days after the borrower is initially in contact with the Program Manager. The borrower's legal counsel may also attend foreclosure counseling, but attendance by legal counsel without the borrower does not satisfy the requirement. If the borrower fails to timely schedule a meeting with a foreclosure counselor, such failure shall be grounds for the Program Manager to file a notice of nonparticipation as provided in paragraph 9 below. Completion of the Borrower's Financial Disclosure for Loan Modification referenced in Exhibit 5A is mandatory in every case so that the borrower's basic financial condition can be assessed by the plaintiff. As applicable, the borrower's financial disclosure for alternative workout options, short sale and a deed in lieu of foreclosure referenced in Exhibit 5B and 5C, should be submitted or made available to plaintiff's counsel and

plaintiff's representative designated in Form A.

It shall be the responsibility of the Program Manager to transmit the Borrower's Financial Disclosure for Mediation to plaintiff's counsel and the plaintiff's representative designated in Form A via a secure dedicated e-mail address or to upload same to the web-enabled information platform described in paragraph 8. If the information is uploaded, the Program Manager shall notify plaintiff's counsel and the plaintiff's representative that the borrower's financial disclosure for mediation is available. The Program Manager is not responsible or liable for the accuracy of the borrower's financial information. The transmission of the Borrower's Financial Disclosure for Mediation to plaintiff's counsel and the plaintiff's representative shall occur no later than 60 days after the Program Manager receives the electronic transmission of Form A from plaintiff's counsel.

7. *Plaintiff's Disclosure for Mediation*. Within the time limit stated below, prior to attending mediation the borrower may request any of the following information and documents from the plaintiff:

Documentary evidence the plaintiff is the owner and holder in due course of the note and mortgage sued upon.

A history showing the application of all payments by the borrower during the life of the loan.

A statement of the plaintiff's position on the present net value of the mortgage loan.

The most current appraisal of the property available to the plaintiff.

The borrower must deliver a written request for such information to the Program Manager in the format of Exhibit 6 attached no later than 25 days prior to the mediation session. The Program Manager shall promptly electronically transmit the request for information to plaintiff's counsel.

Plaintiff's counsel is responsible for ensuring that the Plaintiff's Disclosure for Mediation is electronically transmitted via a secure dedicated e-mail address or to the web-enabled information platform described in paragraph 8 below no later than three (3) business days before the mediation session.

The Program Manager shall promptly deliver a copy of Plaintiff's Disclosure for Mediation to the borrower.

- 8. Information to Be Provided via Secure Dedicated E-mail Address or Web-Enabled Information Platform. All information to be provided to the Program Manager to advance the mediation process, such as Form A, Borrower's Financial Disclosure for Mediation, Plaintiff's Disclosure for Mediation, as well as the case number of the action and contact information for the parties, shall be submitted electronically in a format approved by the Chief Judge via a secure dedicated e-mail address or in a web-enabled information platform with XML data elements.
- 9. *Nonparticipation by Borrower*. The Program Manager shall have 30 days after electronically receiving contact information for the borrower (as required by paragraph 5 above) to contact the borrower. If the borrower does not want participate in the RMFM Program, or if the borrower fails or refuses to cooperate with the Program Manager, or if the Program Manager is unable to contact the borrower, the Program Manager shall file a notice of nonparticipation in the format of Exhibit 4 attached. The notice of nonparticipation shall be filed no later than 10 days after the borrower advises that he or she does not want to participate in the program, or fails to cooperate with requirements of this Administrative Order. If the Program Manager is unable to contact the borrower within 30 days after electronically receiving contact information for the borrower, the notice of nonparticipation shall be filed within 40 days after the borrower contact information is electronically received by the Program Manager. A copy of the notice of nonparticipation shall be served on the parties by the Program Manager.
- 10. *Referral to Foreclosure Counseling.* The Program Manager shall be responsible for referring the borrower to a foreclosure counselor prior to scheduling mediation. Selection from a list of foreclosure counselors certified by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be by rotation or by such other procedures as may be adopted by administrative order of the chief judge in the circuit in which the action is pending. The borrower's failure to participate in foreclosure counseling shall be cause for terminating the case from the RMFM Program.

- 11. **Referrals for Legal Representation.** In actions referred to the RMFM Program, the Program Manager shall advise any borrower who is not represented by an attorney that the borrower has a right to consult with an attorney at any time during the mediation process and the right to bring an attorney to the mediation session. The Program Manager shall also advise the borrower that the borrower may apply for a volunteer *pro bono* attorney in programs run by lawyer referral, legal services, and legal aid programs as may exist within the circuit. If the borrower applies to one of those agencies and is coupled with a legal services attorney or a volunteer *pro bono* attorney, the attorney shall file a notice of appearance with the clerk of the court and provide a copy to the attorney for the plaintiff and the Program Manager. The appearance may be limited to representation only to assist the borrower with mediation but, if a borrower secures the services of an attorney, counsel of record must attend the mediation.
- 12. **Scheduling Mediation.** The plaintiff's representative, plaintiff's counsel, and the borrower are all required to comply with the time limitations imposed by this Administrative Order and attend a mediation session as scheduled by the Program Manager. No earlier than 60 days and no later than 90 days after suit is filed, the Program Manager shall schedule a mediation session. The mediation session shall be scheduled for a date and time convenient to the plaintiff's representative, the borrower, and counsel for the plaintiff and the borrower, using a mediator from the panel of Florida Supreme Court certified circuit civil mediators who have been specially trained to mediate residential mortgage foreclosure disputes. Mediation sessions will be held at a suitable location(s) within the circuit obtained by the Program Manager for mediation. Mediation shall be completed within the time requirements established by rule 1.710(a), Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

Mediation shall not be scheduled until the borrower has had an opportunity to meet with an approved foreclosure counselor and the Borrower's Financial Disclosure for Mediation has been transmitted to the plaintiff via a secure dedicated e-mail address or uploaded to the web-enabled information platform described in paragraph 8. Mediation shall not be scheduled earlier than 30 days after the Borrower's Financial Disclosure for Mediation has been transmitted to the plaintiff.

Once the date, time, and place of the mediation session have been scheduled by the Program Manager, the Program Manager shall promptly file with the clerk of court and serve on all parties a notice of the mediation session.

13. Attendance at Mediation. The following persons are required to be physically present at the mediation session: a plaintiff's representative designated in the most recently filed Form A; plaintiff's counsel; the borrower; and the borrower's counsel of record, if any. However, the plaintiff's representative may appear at mediation through the use of communication equipment, if plaintiff files and serves at least five (5) days prior to the mediation a notice in the format of Exhibit 7 attached advising that the plaintiff's representative will be attending through the use of communication equipment and designating the person who has full authority to sign any settlement agreement reached. Plaintiff's counsel may be designated as the person with full authority to sign the settlement agreement.

At the time that the mediation is scheduled to physically commence, the Program Manager shall enter the mediation room prior to the commencement of the mediation conference and, prior to any discussion of the case in the presence of the mediator, take a written roll. That written roll will consist of a determination of the presence of the borrower; the borrower's counsel of record, if any; the plaintiff's lawyer; and the plaintiff's representative with full authority to settle. If the Program Manager determines that anyone is not present, that party shall be reported by the Program Manager as a non-appearance by that party on the written roll. If the Program Manager determines that the plaintiff's representative present does not have full authority to settle, the Program Manager shall report that the plaintiff's representative did not appear on the written roll as a representative with full settlement authority as required by this Administrative Order. The written roll and communication of authority to the Program Manager is not a mediation communication.

The authorization by this Administrative Order for the plaintiff's representative to appear through the use of communication equipment is pursuant to rule 1.720(b), Florida Rules of Civil Procedure (court order may alter physical appearance requirement), and in recognition of the emergency situation created by the massive number of residential foreclosure cases

being filed in this circuit and the impracticality of requiring physical attendance of a plaintiff's representative at every mediation. Additional reasons for authorizing appearance through the use of communication equipment for mortgage foreclosure mediation include a number of protective factors that do not exist in other civil cases, namely the administration of the program by a program manager, pre-mediation counseling for the borrower, and required disclosure of information prior to mediation. The implementation of this Administrative Order shall not create any expectation that appearance through the use of communication equipment will be authorized in other civil cases.

If the plaintiff's representative attends mediation through the use of communication equipment, the person authorized by the plaintiff to sign a settlement agreement must be physically present at mediation. If the plaintiff's representative attends mediation through the use communication equipment, the plaintiff's representative must remain on the communication equipment at all times during the entire mediation session. If the plaintiff's representative attends through the use of communication equipment, and if the mediation results in an impasse, within five (5) days after the mediation session, the plaintiff's representative shall file in the court file a certification in the format of Exhibit 8 attached as to whether the plaintiff's representative attended mediation. If the mediation results in an impasse after the appearance of the plaintiff's representative through the use of communication equipment, the failure to timely file the certification regarding attendance through the use of communication equipment shall be grounds to impose sanctions against the plaintiff, including requiring the physical appearance of the plaintiff's representative at a second mediation, taxation of the costs of a second mediation to the plaintiff, or dismissal of the action.

Junior lienholders may appear at mediation by a representative with full settlement authority. If a junior lienholder is a governmental entity comprised of an elected body, such junior lienholder may appear at mediation by a representative who has authority to recommend settlement to the governing body. Counsel for any junior lienholder may also attend the mediation.

The participants physically attending mediation may consult on the telephone during the mediation with other persons as long as such

consultation does not violate the provisions of sections 44.401-406, Florida Statutes.

- Failure to Appear at Mediation. 14. If either the plaintiff's representative designated in the most recently filed Form A or the borrower fails to appear at a properly noticed mediation and the mediation does not occur, or when a mediation results in an impasse, the report of the mediator shall notify the presiding judge regarding who appeared at mediation without making further comment as to the reasons for an impasse. If the borrower fails to appear, or if the mediation results in an impasse with all required parties present, and if the borrower has been lawfully served with a copy of the complaint, and if the time for filing a responsive pleading has passed, the matter may proceed to a final hearing, summary judgment, or default final judgment in accordance with the rules of civil procedure without any further requirement to attend mediation. If plaintiff's counsel or the plaintiff's representative fails to appear, the court may dismiss the action without prejudice, order plaintiff's counsel or the plaintiff's representative's to appear at mediation, or impose such other sanctions as the court deems appropriate including, but not limited to, attorney's fees and costs if the borrower is represented by an attorney. If the borrower or borrower's counsel of record fails to appear, the court may impose such other sanctions as the court deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees and costs.
- 15. Written Settlement Agreement; Mediation Report. If a partial or final agreement is reached, it shall be reduced to writing and signed by the parties and their counsel, if any. Pursuant to rule 1.730(b), Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, if a partial or full settlement agreement is reached, the mediator shall report the existence of the signed or transcribed agreement to the court without comment within 10 days after completion of the mediation. If the parties do not reach an agreement as to any matter as a result of mediation, the mediator shall report the lack of an agreement to the court without comment or recommendation. In the case of an impasse, the report shall advise the court who attended the mediation, and a copy of Form A or any amended Form A shall be attached to the report for the court to determine if at least one of the plaintiff's representative named in Form A appeared for mediation. The mediator's report to the court shall be in the format of Exhibit 9 attached.

- 16. *Mediation Communications*. All mediation communications occurring as a result of this Administrative Order, including information provided to the Program Manager that is not filed with the court, shall be confidential and inadmissible in any subsequent legal proceeding pursuant to Chapter 44, Florida Statutes, the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators, unless otherwise provided for by law.
- 17. Failure to Comply with Administrative Order. In all residential foreclosure actions, if a notice for trial, motion for default final judgment, or motion for summary judgment is filed with the clerk of court, no action will be taken by the court to set a final hearing or enter a summary or default final judgment until the requirements of this Administrative Order have been met. In cases involving a homestead residence, the presiding judge shall require that copies of either 1) the most recently filed Form A and the report of the mediator, or 2) the most recently filed Form A and the notice of borrower's nonparticipation be sent to the presiding judge by the plaintiff or plaintiff's counsel prior to setting a final hearing or delivered with the packet requesting a summary or default final judgment. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, a certificate of compliance in the format of Exhibit 12 attached shall be filed with a motion for default final judgment, a motion for summary judgment, or a notice for trial. A copy of the certificate of compliance must accompany the submission of any proposed order for a default final judgment, summary judgment, or final judgment of foreclosure.

The failure of a party to fully comply with the provisions of this Administrative Order may result in the imposition of any sanctions available to the court, including dismissal of the cause of action without further notice.

18. *Mediation Not Required If Residence Is Not Homestead.* If the plaintiff certifies in Form A that the property is NOT a homestead residence when suit is filed, plaintiff's counsel must file and serve with the complaint a certification identifying the agent of plaintiff who has full authority to settle the case without further consultation. The certification shall be in the form of Exhibit 10 attached.

If the plaintiff certifies in Form A that the property is NOT a homestead residence, the matter may proceed to a final hearing, summary judgment, or default final judgment in accordance with the rules of civil procedure without any further requirement to attend mediation, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge.

RMFM Program Fees

- 19. *RMFM Program Fees.* The fee structure for the RMFM Program is based on the assumption that a successful mediation can be accomplished with one mediation session. Accordingly, pursuant to rule 1.720(g), Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, the reasonable program fees for the managed mediation, including foreclosure counseling, the mediator's fee, and administration of the managed mediation program, is a total of \$750.00 payable as follows:
 - 1) \$400.00 paid by plaintiff at the time suit is filed for administrative fees (\$275.00) of the RMFM Program, including outreach to the borrower and foreclosure counseling fees (\$125.00); and
 - 2) \$350.00 paid by plaintiff within 10 days after notice of the mediation conference is filed for the mediation fee component of the RMFM Program fees

If more than one mediation session is needed, the total program fee stated above will also cover a second mediation session. However, if an additional mediation session is needed after the second session, the plaintiff shall be responsible for the payment of the program fees for such additional mediation sessions, unless the parties agree otherwise. The program fees for the third and each subsequent mediation session shall be \$350.00 per session.

All program fees shall be paid directly to the Program Manager. If the case is not resolved through the mediation process, the presiding judge may tax the program fees as a cost or apply it as a set off in the final judgment of foreclosure.

If the borrower cannot be located, chooses not to participate in the RMFM Program, or if the borrower does not make any contact with the foreclosure counselor, the plaintiff shall be entitled to a refund of the portion of the Program fees attributable to foreclosure counseling. If mediation is scheduled and the borrower announces an intention not to participate further in the RMFM Program prior to the mediation session, or if the case settles and the Program Manager has notice of the settlement at least five (5) days prior to the mediation session, the plaintiff shall be entitled to a refund of the Program fees allocated for the mediation session. If notice of settlement is not received by the Program Manager at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled mediation session, the plaintiff shall not be entitled to any refund of mediation fees.

The total fees include the mediator's fees and costs; the cost for the borrower to attend a foreclosure counseling session with an approved mortgage foreclosure counselor; and the cost to the Program Manager for administration of the managed mediation program which includes but is not limited to providing neutral meeting and caucus space, scheduling, telephone lines and instruments, infrastructure to support a web-enabled

information platform, a secure dedicated email address or other secure system for information transmittal, and other related expenses incurred in managing the foreclosure mediation program.

Program Manager to Monitor Compliance and Satisfaction

3. Monitoring Compliance Concerning Certain Provisions of This Administrative Order, Satisfaction with RMFM Program, and Program Operation. The Program Manager shall be responsible for monitoring whether Form A has been filed in all residential foreclosure actions that commence after the effective date of this Administrative Order and whether the RMFM Program fees have been paid if the residence is a homestead residence. The Program Manager shall send compliance reports to the chief judge or the chief judge's designee in the format and with the frequency required by the chief judge.

The Program Manager may assist with enforcing compliance with this Administrative Order upon filing a written motion pursuant to rule 1.100(b), Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, stating with particularity the grounds therefor and the relief or order sought. Example orders are attached as Exhibit 11.

The Program Manager shall also provide the chief judge with periodic reports as to whether plaintiffs and borrowers are satisfied with the RMFM Program.

The Program Manager shall also provide the chief judge with reports with statistical information about the status of cases in the RMFM Program and RMFM Program finances in the format and with the frequency required by the chief judge.

The Program Manager shall provide to the Clerk of the Courts all original compliance reports, together with the activity report; all original mediator's reports; and any original motions submitted to the Program Manager.

4. **Designation of Plaintiff Liaisons with RMFM Program.** Any plaintiff who has filed five (5) or more foreclosure actions in the First Judicial Circuit while this Administrative Order is in effect shall appoint two RMFM Program liaisons, one of whom shall be a lawyer and the other a representative of the entity servicing the plaintiff's mortgages, if any, and, if none, a representative of the plaintiff. Plaintiff's counsel shall provide written notice of the name, phone number (including extension), email, and mailing address of both liaisons to the chief judge and the Program Manager within 30 days after the

effective date of this Administrative Order, and on the first Monday of each February thereafter while this Administrative Order is in effect.

The liaisons shall be informed of the requirements of this Administrative Order and shall be capable of answering questions concerning the administrative status of pending cases and the party's internal procedures relating to the processing of foreclosure cases, and be readily accessible to discuss administrative and logistical issues affecting the progress of the plaintiff's cases through the RMFM Program. Plaintiff's counsel shall promptly inform the chief judge and Program Manager of any changes in designation of the liaisons and the contact information of the liaisons. The liaisons shall act as the court's point of contact in the event the plaintiff fails to comply with this Administrative Order on multiple occasions and there is a need to communicate with the plaintiff concerning administrative matters of mutual interest.

List of Participating Mediators and Rotation of Mediators

22. List of Participating Mediators and Rotation of Mediators. The Program Manager shall post on its website the list of Florida Supreme Court certified mediators it will use to implement the RMFM Program and will state in writing the criteria, subject to approval by the chief judge, the program will use in selecting mediators. The Program Manager shall also state in writing the procedure, subject to the approval by the chief judge, the program will use to rotate the appointment of mediators, and maintain a list as to which mediation site(s) in the First Circuit the mediators designate their willingness to mediate. The RMFM Program shall encourage the use of mediators who have been trained to mediate mortgage foreclosure cases, reflecting the diversity of the community in which it operates. Assignment of mediators shall be on a rotation basis that fairly spreads work throughout the pool of mediators working in the RMFM Program, unless the parties mutually agree on a specific mediator or the case requires a particular skill on the part of the mediator.

Mediators who are on the list of approved mediators maintained by the Program Manager on the date this Administrative Order is signed may continue to mediate cases referred to the RMFM Program, however, such mediators shall not continue working in the RMFM Program if they have not

completed the training requirements imposed by paragraph 2 above within 90 days after the effective date of this Administrative Order.

Pre-Suit Mediation Encouraged

23. **Pre-Suit Mediation.** Mortgage lenders, whether private individuals, commercial institutions, or mortgage servicing companies, are encouraged to use any form of alternative dispute resolution, including mediation, **before** filing a mortgage foreclosure lawsuit with the clerk of the court. Lenders are encouraged to enter into the mediation process with their borrowers **prior** to filing foreclosure actions in the First Judicial Circuit to reduce the costs to the parties for maintaining the litigation and to reduce to the greatest extent possible the stress on the limited resources of the courts caused by the large numbers of such actions being filed across the state and, in particular, in the First Judicial Circuit.

If the parties participated in pre-suit mediation using the RMFM Program or participated in any other pre-suit mediation program having procedures substantially complying with the requirements of this Administrative Order, including provisions authorizing the exchange of information, foreclosure counseling, and requiring use of Florida Supreme Court certified circuit civil mediators specially trained to mediate residential mortgage foreclosure actions, the plaintiff shall so certify in Form A, in which case the plaintiff and borrower shall not be required to participate in mediation again unless ordered to do so by the presiding judge. A borrower may file a motion contesting whether presuit mediation occurred in substantial compliance with the RMFM Program.

Nothing in this paragraph precludes the presiding judge from sending the case to mediation after suit is filed, even if pre-suit mediation resulted in an impasse or there was a breach of the pre-suit mediation agreement.

This Administrative Order shall be recorded by the clerk of the court in each county of the First Judicial Circuit continuing the First Judicial Circuit Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program for ninety (90) days from December 19, 2011. Any case filed under previous First Judicial Circuit Administrative Order Nos. 2009-18 and 2010-01 which were open for processing by the Collins Center prior to December 19, 2011 shall continue to conclusion.

ORDERED on December 22, 2011, retroactive to December 19, 2011.

/s/ TERRY D. TERRELL

TERRY D. TERRELL, Chief Judge First Judicial Circuit, State of Florida

RMFM PROGRAM TIMELINES

TIMELINE FROM DATE SUIT FILED:

Suit is filed

Form A filed with Complaint

RMFM Program fees paid by Plaintiff

Notice of RMFM Program attached to Summons

business day after suit is filed

Form A electronically transmitted to Program Manager by Plaintiff's counsel

59 120 days after suit is filed

Borrower meets with foreclosure counselor

Borrower's Financial Disclosure for Mediation is transmitted to IT platform

Mediation session is scheduled

Borrower requests Plaintiff's Disclosure for Mediation, if desired

days after suit is filed

Notice of Nonparticipation filed by Program Manager, if applicable

TIMELINE WITH MEDIATION SESSION AS POINT OF REFERENCE

Prior to mediation being scheduled

RMFM Program fees paid by Plaintiff

Borrower must contact Program Manager

Borrower must meet with foreclosure counselor

Borrower must complete and submit Borrower's Financial Disclosure for Mediation packet to Program Manager

days prior to mediation session

Program Manager electronically transmits Borrower's Financial Disclosure for Mediation to the IT platform

25 days prior to mediation session

Borrower makes written request for Plaintiff's Disclosure for Mediation if desired

5 days prior to mediation session

Any amended Form A designation of the plaintiff's representative must be filed with the Clerk

3 business days prior to mediation session

Plaintiff's counsel transmits Plaintiff's Financial Disclosure for Mediation to the IT platform

1 day prior to mediation session

Any amended Form A designation of the plaintiff's representative must be uploaded to the IT platform

days after mediation session

Program Manager/Mediator files mediator's report with the clerk of court and serves copies on the parties

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

- 1. FORM A
- 2. NOTICE OF RMFM PROGRAM TO BE SERVED WITH SUMMONS
- 3. BORROWER'S REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN RMFM PROGRAM
- 4. NOTICE OF BORROWER'S NONPARTICIPATION
- 5. BORROWER'S FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FOR MEDIATION
- 6. BORROWER'S REQUEST FOR PLAINTIFF'S DISCLOSURE FOR MEDIATION
- 7. PLAINTIFF'S NOTICE OF ATTENDING MEDIATION BY TELEPHONE
- 8. PLAINTIFF'S CERTIFICATION REGARDING ATTENDING MEDIATION BY TELEPHONE
- 9. MEDIATOR'S REPORT
- 10. CERTIFICATION REGARDING SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY (Residence Not Homestead)
- 11. ORDERS FOR REFERRALS, COMPLIANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT
- 12. CERTIFICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2010-01
- 13. MEDIATION TRAINING STANDARDS
- 14. PARAMETERS FOR MANAGED MEDIATION
- 15. RMFM PROGRAM FLOWCHART

EXHIBIT 1

FORM A

Please complete online at http://www.Co	<u>ollinsMediation.org</u> and file orig	ginal
with the Clerk of Court IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND F	COI	UNTY,
	PRIDA	JI VI I ,
[Name of Plaintiff] Plaintiff, vs.	Case No.:	
[Names of Defendant(s)] Defendant(s)		
(Certifications Pursuant to First Judicia	m "A" al Circuit Administrative Order 2010-0	1)
Certificate of Plaintiff's Counsel I Mor	Regarding Origination of Note : tgage	and_
THE UNDERSIGNED, as counsel of recourt, certifies the origination of the notWAS orWAS NOT subject Lending Act, Regulation Z.	te and mortgage sued upon in the	nis action
Certificate of Plaintiff's Counsel Reg	arding Status of Residential Pr	<u>operty</u>
THE UNDERSIGNED, as counsel of recourt, certifies the property that is theIS NOT a homestead residence. A property for which a homestead real estat the certified rolls of the last assessment by filing of the suit to foreclose the mortgage.	subject matter of this lawsuit _ "homestead residence" means a re te tax exemption was granted acc y the county property appraiser pr	IS or esidential ording to
If the residential property is a homestead following:	d residence, complete both of the	
Certificate of Plaintiff's Counse	el Regarding Pre-Suit Mediatio	<u>n</u>
The following certification DOES of	orDOES NOT apply to this	case:

THE UNDERSIGNED, as counsel of record for plaintiff and as an officer of the court, certifies that prior to filing suit a plaintiff's representative with full settlement authority attended and participated in mediation with the borrower, conducted by the Collins Center For Public Policy, Inc., and the mediation resulted in an impasse or a pre-suit settlement agreement was reached but the settlement agreement has been breached. The undersigned further certifies that prior to mediation the borrower received services from a HUD or NFMC approved foreclosure counselor, Borrower's Financial Disclosure for Mediation was provided, and Plaintiff's Disclosure for Mediation was provided.

<u>Certificate of Plaintiff's Counsel Regarding Plaintiff's Representative at Mediation</u>

THE UNDERSIGNED, as counsel of record for plaintiff and as an officer of the
court, certifies the following is a list of the persons, one of whom will represent the
plaintiff in mediation with full authority to modify the existing loan and mortgage and
to settle the foreclosure case, and with authority to sign a settlement agreement on
behalf of the plaintiff (list name, address, phone number, facsimile number, and
email address):

Plaintiff's counsel understands the mediator or the RMFM Program Manager may report to the court who appears at mediation and, if at least one of plaintiff's representatives named above does not appear at mediation, sanctions may be imposed by the court for failure to appear.

As required by the Administrative Order, plaintiff's counsel will transmit electronically to the RMFM Program Manager the case number of this action, the contact information regarding the parties, and a copy of this Form A, using the approved web-enable information platform.

Date:	
	(Signature of Plaintiff's Counsel)
	[Printed name, address, phone number and

EXHIBIT 2

NOTICE OF RMFM PROGRAM TO BE SERVED WITH SUMMONS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR /COUNTY/, FLORIDA

A NOTICE FROM THE COURT REGARDING LAWSUITS TO FORECLOSE MORTGAGES ON HOMES

If you are being sued to foreclose the mortgage on your primary home and your home has a homestead exemption and if you are the person who borrowed the money for the mortgage, you have a right to go to "mediation." At "mediation," you will meet with a Florida Supreme Court certified mediator appointed by the court and also a representative of the company asking to foreclosure your mortgage to see if you and the company suing you can work out an agreement to stop the foreclosure. The mediator will not be allowed to give you legal advice or to give you an opinion about the lawsuit. The mediator's job is to remain neutral and not take sides, but to give both sides a chance to talk to each other to see if an agreement can be reached to stop the foreclosure. If you and the company suing you come to an agreement, a settlement agreement will be written up and signed by you and the company suing you. With some limited exceptions, what each side says at the mediation is confidential and the judge will not know what was said at mediation.

You will not have to pay anything to participate in this mediation program. To participate in mediation, as soon as practical, you must contact the Collins Center For Public Policy, Inc. by calling 877-352-2004 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (Eastern Time) Monday through Friday.

To participate in mediation, you must also provide financial information to the mediator and meet with an approved foreclosure counselor prior to mediation. You will not be charged any additional amount for meeting with a foreclosure counselor. You may also request certain information from the company suing you before going to mediation.

The Collins Center will explain more about the mediation program to you when you call.

If you have attended mediation arranged by Collins Center prior to being served with this lawsuit, and if mediation did not result in a settlement, you may file a motion asking the court to send the case to mediation again if your financial circumstances have changed since the first mediation.

AS STATED IN THE SUMMONS SERVED ON YOU, YOU OR YOUR LAWYER MUST FILE WITH THE COURT A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO FORECLOSE THE MORTGAGE WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER YOU WERE SERVED. YOU OR YOUR LAWYER MUST ALSO SEND A COPY OF YOUR WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY. YOU MUST TIMELY FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT EVEN IF YOU DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE IN MEDIATION.

[Signature of Chief Judge] CHIEF JUDGE, First Judicial Circuit

EXHIBIT 3

BORROWER'S REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN RMFM PROGRAM

		Г OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY, FLORIDA
	Plaintiff(s),	Case No(s).:
/S.		
	Defendant(s).	
	BORROWER'S REQUEST T	O PARTICIPATE IN RMFM PROGRAM
		(printed name), as the borrower on the mortgage
	sued upon in this case, hereby req	quests that this case be referred by the court to
	mediation using the RMFM Progr	ram. The undersigned states, under penalty or
	perjury, that he or she is currently l	iving on the property as a primary residence and
	the property has a homestead tax ex	xemption.
	Signed on	, 20
		(Signature)
		(Printed Name)
	[Certificate	of Service on the parties]

EXHIBIT 4

NOTICE OF BORROWER'S NONPARTICIPATION

	IN THE CIRCUIT COUR IN AND FOR		IRST JUDICIAL C COUNTY, FLORII	
	Plaintiff(s),			
vs.				
	Defendant(s).			
		Case No(s).	.:	

NOTICE OF BORROWER NONPARTICIPATION WITH RMFM PROGRAM

	[Name of Program Manager] hereby gives notice to the court that
	, (Borrower) will not be participating in the RMFM Program
becau	use:
Ī	The RMFM Program has been unable to contact Borrower;
Ī	Borrower has advised that [he/she] does not wish to participate in mediation
for th	is case;
Ī	Borrower has failed or refuses to meet with a foreclosure counselor;
Ī	Borrower has failed or refuses to comply with the Borrower's Financial
Discl	osure for Mediation;
?	Borrower did not appear at scheduled mediation.
	Signed on , 20 .

B	<i>Y</i> :	
	(Signature)	
	(Printed Name)	

EXHIBIT 5

BORROWER'S FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FOR MEDIATION

EXHIBIT 5A: LOAN MODIFICATION

EXHIBIT 5B: SHORT SALE

EXHIBIT 5C: DEED IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE

EXHIBIT 5A

BORROWER'S FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FOR MEDIATION (LOAN MODIFICATION)

	Foreclo	OSURE MEDIATIO	n Fina	NCIAL WOR	RKSHEET		
Case No.:							
		V.					
Pla	aintiff's Name			F	rirst Defendar	ıt's Nar	ne
SECTION 1: PERSON Borrower's Name	NAL INFORMAT	ΓΙΟΝ	Co-Borro	ower's Name			
sonower o reame			DO BOIL	ower o realine			
Social Security Number	Date of Birt	:h (mm/dd/yyyy)	Social S	ecurity Number	Da	te of Bi	rth (mm/dd/yyyy)
☐ Married	Civil Union/ Dome	stic Partner	☐ Marri	ed	☐ Civil Unio	n/ Dom	estic Partner
		divorced, widowed)	☐ Separated ☐ Unmarried (single, divorced, wide			e, divorced, widowed)	
Dependents (Not listed by (Co-Borrower)		Depende	ents (Not listed b	y Borrower)		
Present Address (Street, C	ity, State, Zip)		Present	Address (Street,	City, State, Z	ip)	
SECTION 2: EMPLO	YMENT INFOR						
Employer		☐ Self Employed	Employe	er			☐Self Employed
Position/Title		Date of Employment	Position	Title			Date of Employment
		atto or Employment	- Controllin				rate of Employment
Second Employer			Second	Employer			
Position/Title		Date of Employment	Position	Title			Date of Employment
						_	
		Borrower		Co-Borr	ower		Total
Gross Salary/Wages							
Net Salary/Wages							
Jnemployment Income							
Child Support/Alimony							

Disability Income
Rental Income
Other Income

Foreclosure Mediation Financial Worksheet					
Case No.:					
	V.				
Plaintiff's Name		First Defendant's Name			
Section 1: Personal Information					
Borrower's Name		Co-Borrower's Name			

Section 1: Perso	NAL IN	FORMATION			
Borrower's Name			Co-Borrower's Name		
Social Security Number Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)		Social Security Number		Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	
☐ Married	☐ Civil U	nion/ Domestic Partner	☐ Married	☐ Civil U	Inion/ Domestic Partner
☐ Separated	□ Unmar	ried (single, divorced, widowed)	☐ Separated	Unmarried (single, divorced, widowe	
Dependents (Not listed by	y Co-Borro	ower)	Dependents (Not listed by Borrower)		
Present Address (Street, City, State, Zip)			Present Address (Street,	City, State	e, Zip)

SECTION 2: EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION					
Employer	☐ Self Employed	Employe	er 	☐Self Employed	
Position/Title	Date of Employment	Position/Title Date		Date of Employment	
Second Employer		Second Employer			
D 10 1711 -	Data of Familian and		F-0 -		D. L / E
Position/Title	Date of Employment	Position/Title Dat		Date of Employment	
				_	
	Borrower		Co-Borrower		Total
Fotal (do not include Gross income)					

	Monthly Payments	Balance Due
First Mortgage		
Second Mortgage		
Other Liens/Rents		
Homeowners' Association Dues		
Hazard Insurance		
Real Estate Taxes		
Child Care		
Health Insurance		
Medical Charges		
Credit Card/Installment Loan		
Credit Card/Installment Loan		
Credit Card/Installment Loan		
Automobile Loan 1		
Automobile Loan 2		
Auto/Gasoline/Insurance		
Food/Spending Money		
Nater/Sewer/Utilities		
Phone/Cell Phone		
Other		
Total		

Section 4: Assets	
	Estimated Value
Personal Residence	
Real Property	
Personal Property	
Automobile 1	
Automobile 2	
Checking Accounts	
Saving Accounts	
RA/401K/Keogh Accounts	
Stock/Bonds/CDs	
Cash Value of Life Insurance	

SECTION 4: ASS	ETS					
						Estimated Value
Personal Residence	9					
Real Property						
Personal Property						
Automobile 1						
Automobile 2						
Checking Accounts						
Saving Accounts						
Other						
				Total		
Reason for Delinqu	ency/Inability to Satis	fy Mortg	age Obligation:			
\square Reduction in	nincome		Medical issues			Death of family member
□ Poor budget HEC	: management skills		Increase in expenses	[Business venture failed
KBO						
X Loss of Inco □ Other:	me		Divorce/separation		3	Increase in loan payment

Section 4: Assets Con't		
Further Explanation:		
/ We obtained a mortgage loan(s) secured by the above-described	d property.	
/ We have described my/our present financial condition and reaso documentation.	n for default and have attach	ed required
/ We consent to the release of this financial worksheet and attachrolaintiff's servicing company by way of the plaintiff's attorney.	ments to the mediator and th	e plaintiff or
By signing below, I / we certify the information provided is true and o	correct to the best of my / ou	r knowledge.
Signature of Borrower	SSN	Date
Signature of Co-Borrower	SSN	Date
Please attach the following:		
✓ Last federal tax return filed		
✓ Proof of income (e.g. one or two current pay stubs) ✓ Past two (2) bank statements		
✓ If self-employed, attach a copy of the past six month's profit and	loss statement	
This is an attempt to collect a debt and any inform	ation obtained will be	used for that

Fannie Mae Hardship Form 1021

Home Affordable Modification Program Hardship Affidavit

Borrower Name (first, middle, last)):		
Date of Birth:			
Co-Borrower Name (first, middle,	last):		
Date of Birth:			
Property Street			
Address:			
Property City, State, Zip:			
Servicer:			
_			
Loan			
Number:			
In order to qualify for		'a ("C	omicar") offer to
In order to qualify for enter into an agreement to modify in	my loon I/wa am/ara	S (S	a this form to the
Servicer and indicating by my/our c	_		_
to my/our difficulty making payme			its that continuit
to my/our difficulty making payme	iits oii iiiy/our iiiortg	gage Ioan.	
My income has been reduced underemployment, reduced job ho business earnings. I have provide	ours, reduced pay, o	r a decline	in self-employed
Borrower: Yes No		-	
My household financial circums family, serious or chronic illness, family responsibilities (adoption relatives or other family mem) "Explanation."	permanent or short or birth of a chi	t-term disa ld, taking	bility, increased care of elderly
Borrower: Yes No	Co-Borrower:	Yes	_ No
		_	

My expenses have increased. For example: monthly mortgage payment has increased or will increase, high medical and health-care costs, uninsured losses (such as those due to fires or natural disasters), unexpectedly high utility bills,

increased ro	eal proper	ty taxes. Ih	nave provided details	below und	ler "Explanation."
Borrower:	Yes	No	Co-Borrower:	Yes	No
and cover be such as ca (excluding an emergence	easic living sh, saving retirement by fund (go	g expenses a gs, money t accounts). enerally equ	to maintain the pay at the same time. Comarket funds, ma Cash reserves do not al to three times my "Explanation."	ash reserv rketable ot include a	yes include assets stocks or bonds assets that serve as
Borrower:	Yes	No	Co-Borrower:	Yes	No
creditors.	may hav	e used cred	e excessive, and I a it cards, home equ yments. I have pr	ity loans o	or other credit to
Borrower:	Yes	No	Co-Borrower:	Yes	No
There are opposited des			annot make our m lanation."	ortgage p	ayments. I have
Informatio	ON FOR GO	VERNMENT Ì	MONITORING PURPO	SES	
required to feether that a lender or on whether both ethnicited not furnition	with federa furnish this for service er you chood ty and race sh ethnicit on the bas a loan me	al statutes that information in may not di ose to furnishe. For race, you, race, or so is of visual odification	sted by the federal go at prohibit discrimina in, but are encouraged scriminate either on it. If you furnish the you may check more ex, the lender or ser il observation or surr in person. If you below.	ation in hou I to do so. the basis of the information than one divicer is re- name if yo	The law provides f this information, on, please provide esignation. If you quired to note the ou have made this
BORROWER: Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino			CO-BORROWER: Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino		

Not Hispanic/Latino	Not Hispanic/Latino
Race: American Indian/Alaska Native	Race: American Indian/Alaska Native
Asian Black/African American Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander White	Asian Black/African American Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander White
I do not wish to furnish this information	I do not wish to furnish this information

TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER

Interviewer's Name (print or type):		
Name/Address of Interviewer's Employer:		
	_	
_		
Face-to-face interview		
Interviewer's Signature/Date		_
Address		
Telephone (include area code)		
Internet address		

BORROWER/CO-BORROWER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 1. Under penalty of perjury, I/we certify that all of the information in this affidavit is truthful and the event(s) identified above has/have contributed to my/our need to modify the terms of my/our mortgage loan.
- 2. I/we understand and acknowledge the Servicer may investigate the accuracy of my/our statements, may require me/us to provide supporting documentation, and that knowingly submitting false information may violate Federal law.
- 3. I/we understand the Servicer will pull a current credit report on all borrowers obligated on the Note.
- 4. I/we understand that if I/we have intentionally defaulted on my/our existing mortgage, engaged in fraud or misrepresented any fact(s) in connection with this Hardship Affidavit, or if I/we do not provide all of the required documentation, the Servicer may cancel the Agreement and may pursue foreclosure on my/our home.
- 5. I/we certify that my/our property is owner-occupied and I/we have not received a condemnation notice.
- 6. I/we certify that I/we am/are willing to commit to credit counseling if it is determined that my/our financial hardship is related to excessive debt.
- 7. I/we certify that I/we am/are willing to provide all requested documents and respond to all Servicer communication in a timely manner. I/we understand that time is of the essence.
- 8. I/we understand that the Servicer will use this information to evaluate my/our eligibility for a loan modification or other workout, but the Servicer is not obligated to offer me/us assistance based solely on the representations in this affidavit.
- 9. I/we authorize and consent to Servicer disclosing to the U.S. Department of Treasury or other government agency, Fannie Mae and/or Freddie Mac any information provided by me/us or retained by Servicer in connection with the Home Affordable Modification Program.

Borrower Signature	Date	Co-Borrower Signature	Date
E-mail Address:		E-mail	
Address:			
Cell phone #		Cell phone	
#	_		
Home Phone #		Home Phone	
#			
Work Phone #		Work Phone	
#			
Social Security #	_	Social Security #	

EXPLANATION:

(Provide any further explanation of the hardship making it difficult for you to pay on your mortgage.)

EXHIBIT 5B

BORROWER'S FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FOR MEDIATION (SHORT SALE)

In addition to the FANNIE MAE HARDSHIP FORM 1021 in Exhibit 5A above, the following information must be uploaded into the web-enabled IT platform on behalf of the borrower:

Signed purchase contract for the homestead residence Listing agreement for sale of the homestead residence Preliminary HUD-1

Written permission from the borrower authorizing the plaintiff or any agent of the plaintiff to speak with the real estate agent about the borrower's loan

Borrowers should be reminded that the sale MUST be an arm's length transaction, and the property cannot be sold to anyone with close personal or business ties to the borrower.

EXHIBIT 5C

BORROWER'S FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FOR MEDIATION (DEED IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE)

In addition to the FANNIE MAE HARDSHIP FORM 1021 in Exhibit 5A above, the following information must be uploaded into the web-enabled IT platform on behalf of the borrower:

Current title search for the homestead residence

BORROWER'S REQUEST FOR PLAINTIFF'S DISCLOSURE FOR MEDIATION

A-1 Effective: 11/2008, CN 11269-English, (Foreclosure Mediation Financial Worksheet)page 13 of 56

F THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No(s).:
Case No(s)
'S REQUEST FOR PLAINTIFF'S E FOR MEDIATION
ame), as the borrower on the mortgage sued
following information and disclosure from the
Order 2010-01 entered in the First Judicial
ruments requested):
he plaintiff is the owner and holder in due
ortgage sued upon.
pplication of all payments by the borrower
ff's position on the present net present value
e property available to the plaintiff.
, 20

(G:
(Signature)

[Certificate of Service on the parties]

PLAINTIFF'S NOTICE OF ATTENDING MEDIATION THROUGH THE USE OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

	F THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY, FLORIDA
	Case No(s).:
Plaintiff(s),	
vs.	•
Defendant(s).	
THROUGH THE USE OF COM DESIGNATION OF AUTHO	REPRESENTATIVE WILL APPEAR MUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND ORITY TO SIGN SETTLEMENT REEMENT
Plaintiff gives notice of exercising th	ne option to allow plaintiff's representative
designated in Form A filed in this ca	ase to attend mediation through the use of
communication equipment, and design	ates [name of person] as the person who wil
be physically present at mediation with	full authority on behalf of plaintiff to sign any
settlement agreement reached at media	tion.
On the date of the mediation, plaintiff's	s representative can be reached by calling the
following telephone number: [telephone	e number, including area code and extension]
Signed on, 20	_•
	[Name of Plaintiff]
-	(Signature)
	(Printed Name) [ce by Plaintiff's Counsel]

PLAINTIFF'S CERTIFICATION REGARDING ATTENDANCE AT MEDIATION THROUGH THE USE OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE F IN AND FOR	
Plaintiff(s),	
VS.	
Defendant(s).	
Case	No(s).:
·	
CERTIFICATION REGARDING ATT THROUGH THE USE OF COMMU	
[Name], who was designated as Plaintiff's Re	presentative in Form A filed herein,
under penalty of perjury, states to the court tha	t [he][she] (mark as appropriate)
Attended mediation through the use of commu	inication equipment, and was on the
communication equipment at all times during t	he entire mediation.
Attended mediation, through the use of commun	nication equipment but was not on the
communication equipment at all times during t	he mediation.
Signed on, 20	

(Signature)
(Printed Name)

[Certificate of Service by Plaintiff's Counsel]

MEDIATION REPORT

	IN AND FOR	COUNTY, FLORIDA	
	Plaintiff(s),	Case No(s).:	
vs.			
	Defendant(s).		
	•	ON REPORT Program)	
Pursuar	nt to the Court's Order, a	Mediation Conference was conducted by	
[name of med	iator], Certified Circuit Circuit	vil Mediator, on [date].	
1.			
The following	were present:		
a)	
Т	he Plaintiff's Representativ	ve, [name], and Plaintiff's attorney, [name].	
b)
Т	The Defendant[s], [name(s)]], and his/her/their attorney[s], [name(s)].	
2			
The res	ult of the Mediation Confe	erence is as follows (Mediator selects only	
one):			
– A	- a signed SETTLEMENT	AGREEMENT was reached during this	
(Conference.		
——	The parties have reached a t	total IMPASSE.	

The parties have agreed to ADJOURN the mediation to [date].

Mediation has been **TERMINATED**.

As required by Administrative Order 2010-01 a copy of the most recently filed Form A is attached.

[Certificate of Service]

CERTIFICATION REGARDING SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY (RESIDENCE NOT HOMESTEAD)

		OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
	IN AND FOR	COUNTY, FLORIDA
		Case No(s).:
	Plaintiff(s),	
VS.		•
	Defendant(s).	
		_

PLAINTIFF'S CERTIFICATION SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY

(Residence Is Not Homestead)

In compliance with Administrative Order 2010-01, the undersigned attorney certifies that following person or entity has full authority to negotiate a settlement of this case with the borrower without further consultation:

(All of the following information must be provided)

Name:

Mailing Address:

Telephone Number (including area code and extension):

Fax Number:

Email Address:

Loan/File Number:

Notice to Defendants: Because of privacy laws and rules, the plaintiff will only be able to negotiate a modification of the loan with the named borrower on the underlying debt.

	I	certify	a	copy	of	this	certification	was	served	on	defendants	with	the
summ	or	ıs.											

Date:

[Signature, Address, Phone Number of Plaintiff's Counsel]

ORDERS FOR REFERRALS, COMPLIANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT

THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No(s).:
•
SHOW CAUSE
vith Administrative Order 2010-01)
as failed to comply with the requirements ards to the following (as marked):
ards to the following (as markea).
bmit Form A to the Program Manager using
atform.
of the RMFM Program fees payable at the

10 days after the notice conference is filed.

Plaintiff failed to electronically submit the case number and contact information to the borrower to the Program Manager using the approved web-based information platform. Failure to File and Serve Certification Regarding Settlement Authority Plaintiff failed to file and serve the certification regarding the person or entity with full settlement authority where the residence is not homestead (Form Exhibit 9 attached to the Administrative Order). Attendance at Mediation Plaintiff's counsel failed to attend mediation. Plaintiff's representative designated in the most recent Form A filed in the court file failed to attend mediation. Plaintiff's agent with full authority to sign a settlement agreement failed to attend mediation.

After the mediation resulted in an impasse, plaintiff's representative failed to file the certification regarding attendance at mediation by telephone at all times (Form Exhibit 7 attached to the Administrative Order).

Plaintiff's representative failed to attend by telephone at all times during the

IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiff shall appear before the court at the *[designation of courthouse/courtroom]* on *[date]* at *[time]* to show cause why sanctions for noncompliance the Administrative Order 2010-01 should not be imposed. Plaintiff is cautioned that failure to appear at the show cause hearing may result in the case being dismissed and the imposition of other appropriate sanctions.

Signed on [date]
[signature block for judge]

mediation session.

[Certificate of Service]

	THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUITCOUNTY, FLORIDA	
Plaintiff(s),		
VS.		
Defendant(s).		
	Case No(s).:	
	•	
(Plaintiff's Failure to Comply v	OW CAUSE HEARING with Administrative Order 2010-01	
The court having determined that Plainti of Administrative Order 2010-01, it is 0	± •	
Form A		
Within 10 days from the date of th submit Form A to the Program Manager platform.	is order, Plaintiff shall file and elect r using the approved web-based info	_
Payment of RMFM Program Fees		
Within 10 days from the date of the RMFM Program fees to the Program	nis order, Plaintiff shall pay \$ n Manager.	of
Electronic Transmittal of Case Numb	oer and Borrower Contact Inforn	nation
Within 10 days from the date of th	nis order. Plaintiff shall electronicall	v submit

the case number and contact information to the borrower to the Program Manager using the approved web-based information platform.

Failure to File and Serve Certification Regarding Settlement Authority
Within 10 days after the date of this order, Plaintiff shall file and serve the certification regarding the person or entity with full settlement authority where the residence is not homestead (Form Exhibit 9 attached to the Administrative Order).
Attendance at Mediation
Plaintiff's counsel shall attend the next scheduled mediation in this case.
(Name), as plaintiff's representative designated in the most recent Form A filed in the court file, shall physically attend the next scheduled mediation in this case.
(Name), as plaintiff's agent with full authority to sign a settlement agreement shall attend the next scheduled mediation in this case.
Dismissal
This case is dismissed without prejudice.
Additional Sanctions
The court determines is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and cost, the amount of which shall be determined at a subsequent hearing.
Signed on Idatel

Signed on [date] [signature block for judge]

[Certificate of Service]

	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT C	OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
	IN AND FOR	COUNTY, FLORIDA
		Case No(s).:
	Plaintiff(s),	
vs.		•
	Defendant(s)	
	Defendant(s).	

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO RMFM PROGRAM

(Case Filed Prior to February 26, 2010)

It appearing to the court that the residence which is the subject of this action to foreclose a mortgage is a "homestead residence" to which Administrative Order 2010-01 applies and that Defendant ______ (Borrower) has requested that the case be referred to mediation, it is ORDERED:

The case is referred to the RMFM Program for mediation, and the plaintiff and borrower shall comply with Administrative Order 2010-01. Within 10 days from the date of this order, the plaintiff shall pay that portion of the RMFM Program fees payable at the time suit is filed, file a properly filled out Form A in the manner required by the administrative order, and electronically transmit Form A to the Program Manager using the approved web-based information platform.

The plaintiff and borrower are to cooperate with the Program Manager and must attend any mediation scheduled by the Program Manager.

The plaintiff is advised and cautioned that failure to comply in a timely manner with the requirements of this order will result in dismissal of the cause of action without further order of the court.

Signed on [date]
[signature block for judge]

[Certificate of Service]

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH, ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2010-01

	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT (IN AND FOR	OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY, FLORIDA
		Case No(s).:
	Plaintiff,	
VS.		
	Defendant(s).	

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2010-01

(Must Be Submitted With Request For Final Or Summary Judgment)

The undersigned attorney certifies (mark as appropriate):

This action was filed before April 1, 2009, and compliance with Administrative Order 2010-01 (and previous Administrative Order 2009-18) was not ordered by the court.

This action was filed after April 1, 2009, and Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel have fully complied with the requirements of Administrative Order 2010-01 (and previous Administrative Order 2009-18), and a true and accurate copy of the most recently filed Form A and the mediators report or notice of borrower's nonparticipation is attached to this certificate.

Signed on [date].

[signature block for certifying attorney]

[certificate of service]

MEDIATION TRAINING STANDARDS

Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Training Standards

Introduction

Achieving an informed and committed workforce of Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediators requires not only a grasp of the obvious mediation skills, but an extension of those skills into practical and substantive knowledge areas including, but not limited to, mortgage loan products, securities, loan servicers, court processes, and resolution options. A training model which includes both a preliminary online modular dissemination of information followed by live classroom training will provide this knowledge. Participants' completion of online training modules prior to a one-day live class will facilitate better discussion and greater comprehension. Post training access to online practice resources can improve, develop statewide practice and provide real time content updates.

Development of this training model is not only feasible, but also can be developed in a timely way. We recommend that each training provider maintain a needs-based approach to training, reflect on and respond to the participants' needs, and clearly state a training rationale that will serve as a methodological and ethical touchstone. It is our hope that this outline for Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Training Objectives and Standards will lead to quality mortgage foreclosure mediation training and practice throughout the State of Florida.

1. Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Training Goals

At the conclusion of the training, the participants shall be able to:

Recognize Basic Legal Concepts in Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation

Identify Negotiation Dynamics in Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation

Identify Mediation Process and Techniques in Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation

Recognize Financial Issues in Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation

Identify Communication Skills in Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation

Recognize Ethical Issues in Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation

1. Learning Objectives

a.	Basic Legal Concepts in Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation				
	1)	Recognize basic legal concepts in mortgage foreclosures.			
	2)	Explain the process of, and timelines in, mortgage foreclosure and in the mortgage foreclosure mediation process.			
	3)	Identify the state rules, state and federal statutes, servicing guidelines, and local procedures and forms governing mortgage foreclosure mediation.			
	4)	Identify the protections, constraints, and exceptions of the Florida Confidentiality and Privilege Act in the context of Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation.			
b.	Negot	tiation Dynamics in Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation			
	1	Recognize the issues of settlement authority as they relate to the stakeholders in Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation.			
	2	Recognize the impact of physical, telephonic, videoconference, on line or other electronic means of appearance at the mediation conference on the negotiation.			
	3)			

Recognize the role(s) of the following in the Mortgage

i. lender

Foreclosure Mediation process:

	ii.
	loan servicer
	iii.
	investor
	iv. mortgage broker
	V.
	mortgage pool
	vi.
	second mortgagee
	vii.
	condominium association
	Viii.
	homeowners' association ix.
	lien holders (i.e., municipal, mechanics lien)
	X.
	MERS
	XI.
	appraiser
1	Recognize techniques for assessing risks and incentives in a mortgage foreclosure case.
1	3
•	Recognize concept of "good faith" and distinguish it from state court appearance requirements.
1	4
•	Recognize basic mortgage nomenclature and sources, types and structure of mortgages.
15)	
,	Identify options for resolution such as:
	i.
	modification of mortgage terms
	ii.

	partial loan forgiveness
	i i i .
	placement of delinquent payments at the end of the loan
	term
	iv.
	short sale
	v. deed in lieu of foreclosure
	vi.
	waiver of deficiency judgment
	v i i i .
	stipulation to modify (i.e., if mortgagor makes X number of payments, then the loan will be modified)
	viii.
	principal set aside
	ix.
	repayment plan
	X.
	loan reinstatement
	x i .
	"right to rent" (i.e., the bank owns the property and rents it to the former borrower at the market rental rate)
1 N	. Iediation Process and Techniques in Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation
1)
	Identify procedural elements which should be addressed prior to t h e
	parties' entry into the mediation room including telephonic and other electronic equipment.
2	•
2	Identify information which needs to be exchanged prior to mediation (i.e., Pooling and Servicing Agreement; life of loan history; mortgagee current financial disclosure; different loss mitigation, loan modification and other resolution options).
3)

Identify issues which are appropriate for mortgage foreclos	ure
mediation and those that are not appropriate.	

	Identify individuals who are essential participants in mortgage foreclosure mediation as well as those who are entitled to be present and those who are not required to participate but whose participation may be helpful in mediation.
5	Describe techniques for mediating when all parties are self-represented, some parties are self-represented, or all parties are presented by counsel.
6	Identify appropriate techniques for handling a situation where a representative appearing for a party does not have full authority to settle.
7	Discuss the dynamics of mediating when one or more parties, participants, or representatives frequently participate in mediation.
8	Discuss how emotions affect mortgage foreclosure issues and a party's ability to effectively mediate.
9	Identify the role and procedures of the Program Manager
j. Fina	ncial Issues in Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation
1	Understand the Net Present Value Model of the Making Home Affordable Program.
2)

		Understa f defaults.	and debt-to 0	o-income r r	ratios and g	uidelines r	and potential e	ls -
	3	-			ie Mac, FH and options.		nd other loa) n
d	Comn	nunicatio	n Skills in	Mortgage	Foreclosur	e Mediati	on	•
	2	and the c	other party	's issues.		-	see their ow)
c	Ethica	al Issues i	n Mortgaş	ge Foreclos	sure Mediat	tion		•
	1	_	_		s and when k independe		or shall advis ounsel.) se
	2	p r opinion parties, o indicate	o f intended decide the	e s to coerce e dispute, o court in w	direct a res	o n s, unduly olution of	a personal of a linfluence the fany issue of the deen filed wi	ie or
	3	Memoria	llizing the	parties' ag	greement.)

Training Parameters

a	т·	' D '1		
	Training Provider			
	1)	Training may be provided by the Program Manager(s) OR by independent training providers.		
b				
	Fund	ing		
	1)	Fees would be paid by mediators to training provider(s) and maginclude entire training process.		
b				
	Struc	ture		
	1	A series of self – study web based modules corresponding to the six categories of learning objectives outlined in these recommendations – each followed by an online quiz; completed at participant's own pace.		
	2	Final online test for pass code entry to live class.		
	3	Live classroom training		
		Length of Training. An instructional hour is defined as 50 minutes. Span of Training. Live mortgage foreclosure mediation training shall be presented over a period of one (1) day.		
	1	Certificate of Completion of Advanced Course on Florida Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation given to participant Access to web-based modules terminates.		

Optional Online Learning Forum - for continued learning p r o v i d e d b y Program Manager(s) OR by independent training providers – additional monthly fee for access

3 Recommended Course Content Requirements

2

Required Training Materials. At a minimum, training providers shall provide each of their attendees with a training manual that includes:

- a. An agenda annotated with the learning objectives to be covered in each section and the intended method of instruction;
- b. Sample mortgage foreclosure mediated settlement agreements;
- c. Sample federal government forms, i.e. HAMP Program Hardship Affidavit, HAMP Trial Period Plan, HAMP FAQs, IRS Form 4506-T, Foreclosure Mediation Financial Worksheet;
- d. Suggested readings including:
 - i. Chapter 44, Florida Statutes Mediation Alternatives to Judicial Action
 - ii Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators
 - iii. Rules 1.510 and 1.700 1.750, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure
 - iv. Chapter 697, Florida Statutes Instruments Deemed Mortgages and the Nature of a Mortgage
 - v. Chapter 701, Florida Statutes Assignment and Cancellation of Mortgages
 - vi. Chapter 702, Florida Statutes Foreclosure of Mortgages, Agreements for Deeds, and Statutory Liens
 - vii. Chapter and/or sections pertaining to Condominiums and Homeowner Associations
 - viii. Section 55.10(1), Florida Statutes (2004) pertaining

- to judgment liens
- ix. Federal statutes (i.e. Bankruptcy; Truth in Lending Act, Hope for Homeowners Act of 2008, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Service Members Civil Relief Act of 2003, and others to be identified and defined more specifically)
- x. Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan, Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), and guidelines for servicers
- xi. Glossary of Terms
- xii. List of local, state and federal resources for borrowers
- xiii. Internet Links to useful on line resources
- Xiv. Current Supreme Court of Florida Administrative Order, In Re Task Force on Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Cases
- XV. Local Judicial Circuit Administrative Order on Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Cases
- xvi. Additional reading resources provided by the Mediation Manager

1 Training Methodology

a

Pedagogy. Residential mortgage foreclosure mediation training programs shall include, but are not limited to, the following: lecture, group discussion, and a mortgage foreclosure mediation demonstration.

1

Use of subject matter specialists, i.e. lender, borrower, loan servicer, investor, plaintiff and defense counsel, mortgage foreclosure counselor, community resources.

2

A subject matter specialist shall have a substantial part of his or

her professional practice in the area about which the specialist is lecturing and shall have the ability to connect his or her area of expertise with the residential mortgage foreclosure mediation process.

c

Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Demonstration. All mortgage foreclosure mediation training programs shall present a residential mortgage foreclosure role play mediation demonstration either live (including video conferencing) or by video/DVD presentation.

d .

Web-Based Methodologies. Web-based technologies may be used as an optional delivery method or as a post-training forum for continued learning and discussion for mediators. An online version of the training may provide a repository for the rapidly changing residential mortgage foreclosure training information.

e .

Assessment. Post-training assessment by participants, using post-training surveys combining a Likert scale with narrative response components, should inform content development and methodologies and provide quality assurance for training providers. The post-training survey would give the participants the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the trainer(s), the substantive content of the program, and the practical value of the training, and to offer additional suggestions or comments.

PARAMETERS FOR MANAGED MEDIATION

PARAMETERS FOR PROVIDERS OF MANAGED MEDIATION SERVICES

Purpose: To define the parameters of managers directing mediation services for parties involved in residential mortgage foreclosure litigation.

A. Characteristics of Program Manager

- 1. Compliant with ADR principles as promulgated by the supreme court, and ADR statutes and rules;
- 2. Non-profit entity or associated with a reputable organization of proven competence, autonomous and independent of the judicial branch;
- 3. Capable of efficient administration of large case loads;
- 4. Sensitive to cultural, diversity, and Americans with Disabilities Act issues:
- 5. Politically and professionally neutral;
- 6. Knowledgeable of court procedures, current trends, laws, rules, and regulations affecting residential foreclosures;
- 7. Fiscally transparent and accountable;
- 8. Quickly adaptable to a dynamic and rapidly evolving legal environment;
- 9. Financially stable;
- 10. Capable of sustained operation without fiscal impact on the courts;
- 11. Capable of effectively implementing information technology systems and web-based programs;
- 12. Alert to ethical and confidentiality issues; and
- 13. Agreeable to acting as manager for voluntary pre-suit mediation.

N. Services to be Provided by Program Manager

- 1. Receive mediation referrals and, within designated time limits, schedule and coordinate mediation conferences: date, place and time; reserve and provide venues for mediation and caucus; manage continuances and rescheduling;
- **2.** Maintain financial books and records to insure transparency and accuracy of receipts and expenditures;
- **3.** Prepare financial statements, financial and performance reports (for example, attendance and failure to attend mediation reports);

- **4.** Establish and maintain performance standards for staff and mediators, including maintaining a roster of mediators comprised of persons who are properly trained in accordance with the standards attached, and who are otherwise qualified, and effective in foreclosure mediation;
- **5.** Assist in specialized training of mediators for workout options and resources;
- **6.** Arrange and pay for interpreters;
- **7.** Bill, collect, deposit, and disburse mediation fees and refunds; pay for necessary services and costs incidental to mediation managing as required to implement mediation administrative order;
- 8. Establish procedures for managing and communicating with *pro se* litigants and attorneys. This includes implementing a process for prompt outreach to borrower-owners immediately after suit has been filed; the goal of the outreach is to inform mortgagors about the mediation program, invite their participation, and to start the process of referral to mortgage foreclosure counseling and the collection of required financial information;
- **9.** Establish procedures for complying with confidentiality rules;
- **10.** Establish a system for managing mediators that:
 - a. Provides for the impartial assignment of mediators, for example, by the use of a rotating list,
 - **b.** Is open to qualified supreme court certified mediators who are capable of providing effective services in the residential foreclosure setting, and
 - **c.** Allows for more than one Mediation Managing entity in the circuit if approved by the chief judge.
- 11. Monitor or supervise the preparation of mediation settlement agreements;

- **12.** In accordance with the Administrative Order establish the schedule for division of fees between mediators, managers and others;
- **13.** Prepare operational reports as required by the chief judge, regarding the number of cases mediated, impasse or successful mediations, etc.;
- **14.** Solicit qualified mediators and maintain current list of mediators available for residential foreclosure cases;
- **15.** Establish procedures for disqualifying and replacing mediators with ethical or other conflicts;
- **16.** Coordinate the referral of mortgagors to certified foreclosure counselors pre-mediation;
- **17.** Refer unrepresented parties to legal aid, or panels of pro bono or reduced fee attorneys;
- 18. Facilitate the exchange of documents between the parties, pre- and post-mediation, including the establishment and maintenance of a secure web-based communication system between the Program Manager and all parties to mediation using a platform capable of transmitting financial data, email, mediation forms and attachments, and able to track participant payments and refunds;
- **19.** Maintain for dissemination to owner-borrowers a list of approved foreclosure counselors willing to perform services at the rates established by the court;
- **20.** Answer inquiries from mediators and parties re the mediation process and forms;
- **21.** Establish a system for resolving complaints against mediators and other persons involved in the Managed Mediation Program;
- **22.** Establish procedures for participant evaluation of mediation program services, including satisfaction surveys;

- 23. Develop the forms and procedures necessary to verify compliance with the residential foreclosure mediation program by lender/servicer representatives, their attorneys, and borrowers; and
- 24. Using judicial disqualification criteria as a model, disclose to the chief judge any direct or indirect financial ties to lenders/servicers (including any immediate family members), whether present or within the past three (3) years, with a continuing obligation to disclose.

RMFM PROGRAM FLOWCHART

