

PRE-FORECLOSURE TIMELINES

Foreclosure timelines can vary significantly depending on the state and the specific circumstances surrounding each foreclosure case. However, there is a general process that most foreclosures follow, which can be broken down into several key stages. Here's an overview:



1 Missed Payments and Notice of Default:

Foreclosure proceedings typically begin after a borrower has missed several mortgage payments (usually three to six payments). The lender will send a notice of default (NOD), giving the borrower a chance to resolve the delinquency.

2 Pre-Foreclosure Period:

After the notice of default is issued, there is a pre-foreclosure period during which the borrower can either pay the overdue amount to bring the mortgage current, negotiate a modification or repayment plan with the lender, or sell the property (often in a short sale to avoid foreclosure). This period varies by state but can last from 30 to 120 days.

3 Notice of Trustee's Sale:

If the borrower cannot resolve the default, the lender may then issue a notice of trustee's sale (in non-judicial foreclosure states) or file a lawsuit (in judicial foreclosure states). This notice will set a date for the foreclosure auction. The timeline for this notice can vary, but it typically occurs a few months after the notice of default.

4 **Foreclosure Auction:**

At the foreclosure auction, the property is sold to the highest bidder. The borrower has until the auction to make arrangements to stop the foreclosure, such as paying the outstanding balance or filing for bankruptcy.

5 **Post-Foreclosure:**

If the property is not sold at auction, it becomes the property of the lender (now known as REO, or real estate owned). At this point, the previous homeowner must vacate the property if they haven't already.

6 **Eviction:**

The final step, if necessary, is eviction. This can happen quickly or may take several weeks, depending on local laws and the court system.

Timeline Variations

Judicial Foreclosure States

These states require lenders to go through the court system to foreclose on a property. This process can take a year or more.

Non-Judicial Foreclosure States

These states allow lenders to foreclose without going through the court system, making the process much quicker—often four to six months from the first missed payment.

Remember, these timelines are general estimates and can vary greatly based on local laws, the specifics of the mortgage agreement, and the actions of both the lender and borrower. It's always best to consult with a legal professional for advice on a specific situation.

[Click here for your state's timelines and guidelines](#)