



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Mildred Wilkins at 1 (866) 507-5105
mildredwilkins@HomeOwnershipMatters.com
Christie Bevington (402) 323-6506

Home Ownership Matters announces 1st Foreclosure Intervention Specialists (FIS) class graduates in Nebraska

Indianapolis, IN. December 7, 2009—HOM President and Founder Mildred Wilkins joins Christie Bevington of the Nebraska REALTORS® Association in announcing graduates of (FIS) the foreclosure certification program offered for the first time in the state of Nebraska. Sixteen licensees completed the certification program on November 10, 2009 in Omaha, Nebraska. The Foreclosure Intervention Specialist Program (FIS) has additionally been approved by Real Estate Commissions in Colorado, Ohio, Oklahoma and Indiana. The program will be launched in South Carolina in March 2010 and has been offered in Florida without CE credit to attendees from a number of states. NAR provided funding for this critical training in Nebraska and is also providing funding for the training in South Carolina.

This certification program was developed by Mildred Wilkins, president of HOM, LLC headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. The program provides 30 hours of material in a classroom setting designed to prepare attendees to become knowledgeable about the options available to consumers who are in default on their home loans. Included in the course are components which address the foreclosure process, ethics, fair housing, the short sale process as well as options for keeping the home. Real estate professionals need a broad knowledge base to make appropriate recommendations when a default has occurred. (FIS) training provides that broad base.

The practice of real estate has evolved rapidly as foreclosures have increased dramatically, creating a need for a new field of knowledge. Foreclosure is frequently avoidable, but unfortunately, consumers have limited opportunities to learn what options are available. Nor is there a way for consumers to identify professionals who have the ability to help them.

The Foreclosure Intervention Specialist (FIS) certification will set apart those agents who have taken extensive training to be prepared to handle the challenges associated with transactions when the consumer owes more than the property is worth on the open market. The training can alter the outcome of mortgage default when a consumer chooses an agent who is an (FIS) specialist. The completion of this program will also help licensees avoid liability while helping them to work more effectively to avert foreclosure.

Ms. Wilkins is a former Fannie Mae Broker-Specialist who sold foreclosed properties for their disposition department out of Dallas, Texas. She has received loss mitigation training from NeighborWorks America, Fannie Mae and HUD. Since founding HOM in 2002, her work has been featured in the *New York Times* and *BusinessWeek*, she has also appeared on MSNBC and NPR. In addition, foreclosure related articles she has written have been published in REALTOR magazines around the country.

Wilkins has been a faculty member for Graduate REALTOR Institute (GRI) since 2004. She is also a member of the faculty of NeighborWorks America as a trainer in Foreclosure Intervention. She is regularly a speaker or trainer at numerous state/regional conferences on foreclosure intervention, predatory lending, loss mitigation and/or mortgage fraud. She is widely recognized as a leading expert on these subjects. HOM has been certified as a continuing education provider for real estate professionals in Colorado, Nebraska, Ohio Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Iowa and Alabama. Wilkins is an approved instructor for attorneys in Indiana and Ohio.

The next (FIS) training is scheduled in Florida the week of Feb 22-26. Combine education and vacation. Or register for the course in Charleston, So Carolina scheduled to begin March 15th. To schedule an (FIS) training series in your area, contact Mildred directly.

www.HomeOwnershipMatters.com for registration/more information.

Email: mildredwilkins@homeownershipmatters.com