

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
DIVISION OF BANKING**

IN THE MATTER OF:

<b>CRAWFORD LAW GROUP</b>	) No. 2011-MBR-CD4
Attention: John Crawford	)
1565 McGaw Avenue	)
Irvine, CA 92614	)

**ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST & ASSESSING FINE**

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Banking (“Department”) hereby issues to the Crawford Law Group (“CLG”) this ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST & ASSESSING FINE (“Order”). This Order is authorized by and issued pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1-3(d-1) & (e) and 4-1 (h-1) of the Residential Mortgage License Act of 1987 (“RLMA”) [205 ILCS 635].

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Department makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. That Section 1-3(a) of the Residential Mortgage Licensing Act of 1987 (“RMLA”) [205 ILCS 635/1-3(a)] requires any person, partnership, association, corporation or other entity to obtain an Illinois residential mortgage license to engage in the business of brokering, funding, originating, servicing, or purchasing of residential mortgage loans;
2. That the RMLA was amended by P.A. 96-0112, effective July 31, 2009 to enact changes for mortgage loan originators required by the federal Secure and Fair Enforcement Act for Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (“SAFE Act”);
3. That the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) published on December 15, 2009 “SAFE Mortgage Licensing Act: HUD Responsibilities Under the SAFE Act; Proposed Rule” in which HUD expressed the view that third-party loan modification specialists are within the licensing requirements of the SAFE Act, subject to public comment and final rule adoption, but states are empowered to act within their contemporary interpretations of state licensing laws implementing SAFE Act provisions and are permitted to exceed the minimum requirements of the SAFE Act;
4. That the Department has continued to receive an escalating number of complaints from consumers and others of unlicensed companies and individuals taking up-front and/or excessive fees, providing limited or no services for these fees, failing to refund unearned fees, and placing consumers at further risk of losing their

- homes through foreclosure by failing to timely obtain loan modifications or communicate status with consumers;
5. That the Department has determined that the RMLA, as amended by the SAFE Act provisions of P.A. 96-0112, authorizes the licensing and regulation of residential loan modification services by entities and individuals and as consistent with the purpose of protecting consumers under the RMLA;
  6. That the Department has posted two public notifications on its website [www.idfpr.com](http://www.idfpr.com) consisting of a "Statement Regarding Loan Modification Services" and a "Statement Regarding Attorneys Performing Mortgage Loan Modifications;"
  7. That the Department received a complaint from a licensee alleging that CLG had sent a customer correspondence using the licensee's name without authorization and informing this Illinois consumer that he had been pre-qualified through a Homeowner's Assistance Program for a 30-year fixed rate mortgage with a monthly payment of \$364; the Department opened an investigation of possible deceptive advertising and conducted telephone interviews with CLG owner John Crawford and others resulting a determination that through said correspondence/solicitation CLG had engaged in licensable activity without possessing an Illinois mortgage broker license;
  8. That on December 30, 2010, the Department sent by U.S. registered, return receipt mail a letter requesting a written response from CLG no later than January 9, 2011; signature and acknowledged receipt of the Department's letter occurred on January 3, 2011, but CLG failed to provide the Department with any written response to the Department's findings or assertion of how its activities complied with the Act and aforementioned Department statements;
  9. That no person, partnership, association, corporation, or other entity except a licensee under RMLA or an entity exempt from licensing pursuant to Section 1-4, subsection (d) of RMLA shall do any business under any name or title, or circulate or use any advertising or make any representation or give any information to any person, which indicates or reasonably implies activity within the scope of RMLA; and
  10. That the Department has reasonable cause to believe that an unsafe, unsound, or unlawful practice has occurred, is occurring, or is about to occur as to CLG's activities, as an unlicensed entity, soliciting Illinois consumers to refinance or modify residential mortgage loans, and that CLG has committed a business offense.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the Findings of Fact, the Department makes the following Conclusions of Law:

CLG has violated RMLA Sections 1-3(a), (b), (d-1), & (e), 4-1(h-1), and 7-1 & 7-1A of the Act by soliciting Illinois consumers to refinance or modify residential mortgage loans without holding an Illinois residential mortgage license and by engaging in said activities through its owners, officers, directors, employees or agents not licensed or registered as mortgage loan originators.

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

CLG, by and through its owners, officers, directors, employees, and agents, shall immediately cease and desist from soliciting Illinois consumers to refinance or modify residential mortgage loans, and shall be assessed and pay a fine due and payable upon issuance of this Order in the amount of \$25,000 to the Department.

ORDERED THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2011

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
BRENT E. ADAMS, SECRETARY  
DIVISION OF BANKING

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JORGE A. SOLIS, DIRECTOR

**You are hereby notified that this Order is an administrative decision. Pursuant to 205 ILCS 635/4-12 and 38 Ill. Adm. Code 1050.1510 et seq. any party may file a request for a hearing on an administrative decision. The request for a hearing and \$500 hearing fee (certified check/money order) shall be filed at 320 W. Washington, Springfield, IL 62786, within 10 days after the receipt of an administrative decision. The request for hearing must include an explicit admission, denial or appropriate response to each allegation or issue contained in the administrative decision pursuant to 38 Ill. Adm. Code 1050.1570. A hearing shall be held on the administrative decision by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Banking. Absent a request for a hearing, this Order shall constitute a final administrative Order subject to the Administrative Review Law [735 ILCS 5/3-101 et seq.].**

State of Illinois (   
 ( ss:   
 County of Cook (

The undersigned, being duly sworn on oath, states that on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_, I mailed with sufficient postage affixed, a copy of the foregoing **CEASE AND DESIST ORDER & ASSESSING FINE** by U.S. registered mail, return receipt requested, at 122 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1900, Chicago, Illinois 60603, to the address listed below:

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AFFIANT

Subscribed and sworn to before me,   
 this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011

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NOTARY PUBLIC

Mail to:

CRAWFORD LAW GROUP   
 **ATTN: John Crawford**   
 1565 McGaw Avenue   
 Irvine, CA 92614

**SERIAL #7008 0500 0000 9235 5527**