

Chapter 61.24 RCW
DEEDS OF TRUST

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*Possession of real property by trustee of deed of trust to collect
rents and profits: RCW 7.28.230.*

RCW 61.24.005 Definitions. The definitions in this section
apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
otherwise.

(1) "Affiliate of beneficiary" means any entity which controls,
is controlled by, or is under common control with a beneficiary.

(2) "Beneficiary" means the holder of the instrument or document
evidencing the obligations secured by the deed of trust, excluding
persons holding the same as security for a different obligation.

(3) "Borrower" means a person or a general partner in a
partnership, including a joint venture, that is liable for all or part
of the obligations secured by the deed of trust under the instrument
or other document that is the principal evidence of such obligations,
or the person's successors if they are liable for those obligations
under a written agreement with the beneficiary.

(4) "Commercial loan" means a loan that is not made primarily for
personal, family, or household purposes.

(5) "Department" means the department of commerce or its
designee.

(6) "Fair value" means the value of the property encumbered by a
deed of trust that is sold pursuant to a trustee's sale. This value
shall be determined by the court or other appropriate adjudicator by
reference to the most probable price, as of the date of the trustee's
sale, which would be paid in cash or other immediately available
funds, after deduction of prior liens and encumbrances with interest
to the date of the trustee's sale, for which the property would sell
on such date after reasonable exposure in the market under conditions
requisite to a fair sale, with the buyer and seller each acting
prudently, knowledgeably, and for self-interest, and assuming that
neither is under duress.

(7) "Grantor" means a person, or its successors, who executes a
deed of trust to encumber the person's interest in property as
security for the performance of all or part of the borrower's
obligations.

(8) "Guarantor" means any person and its successors who is not a borrower and who guarantees any of the obligations secured by a deed of trust in any written agreement other than the deed of trust.

(9) "Housing counselor" means a housing counselor that has been approved by the United States department of housing and urban development or approved by the Washington state housing finance commission.

(10) "Owner-occupied" means property that is the principal residence of the borrower.

(11) "Person" means any natural person, or legal or governmental entity.

(12) "Record" and "recorded" includes the appropriate registration proceedings, in the instance of registered land.

(13) "Residential real property" means property consisting solely of a single-family residence, a residential condominium unit, or a residential cooperative unit. For the purposes of the application of RCW 61.24.163, residential real property includes residential real property of up to four units.

(14) "Senior beneficiary" means the beneficiary of a deed of trust that has priority over any other deeds of trust encumbering the same residential real property.

(15) "Tenant-occupied property" means property consisting solely of residential real property that is the principal residence of a tenant subject to chapter 59.18 RCW or other building with four or fewer residential units that is the principal residence of a tenant subject to chapter 59.18 RCW.

(16) "Trustee" means the person designated as the trustee in the deed of trust or appointed under RCW 61.24.010(2).

(17) "Trustee's sale" means a nonjudicial sale under a deed of trust undertaken pursuant to this chapter. [2021 c 151 § 2; 2014 c 164 § 1. Prior: 2011 c 364 § 3; 2011 c 58 § 3; prior: 2009 c 292 § 1; 1998 c 295 § 1.]

Effective date—2021 c 151 §§ 1-4, 6-8, and 10: "Sections 1 through 4, 6 through 8, and 10 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect immediately [May 3, 2021]." [2021 c 151 § 15.]

Findings—Intent—2021 c 151: "The legislature finds that whether mediation, reporting, and payment provisions of the foreclosure fairness act apply to any particular beneficiary in a given year is tied to the number of trustee's sales and number of notices of trustee's sale recorded in the preceding year. The legislature further finds that, due to the federal foreclosure moratorium in place from at least March of 2020 through December of 2020 and into the year 2021, it is likely that, absent legislative action, the mediation, reporting, and payment provisions of the foreclosure fairness act will apply to very few if any beneficiaries in calendar year 2021 or 2022 because the threshold numbers that trigger application of these provisions will not be met. The legislature therefore intends to put in place a temporary stopgap remedy so that vital assistance provisions of the foreclosure fairness act are not lost at the very time that foreclosure activity is likely to be increasing." [2021 c 151 § 1.]

Findings—Intent—2011 c 58: "(1) The legislature finds and declares that:

(a) The rate of home foreclosures continues to rise to unprecedented levels, both for prime and subprime loans, and a new wave of foreclosures has occurred due to rising unemployment, job loss, and higher adjustable loan payments;

(b) Prolonged foreclosures contribute to the decline in the state's housing market, loss of property values, and other loss of revenue to the state;

(c) In recent years, the legislature has enacted procedures to help encourage and strengthen the communication between homeowners and lenders and to assist homeowners in navigating through the foreclosure process; however, Washington's nonjudicial foreclosure process does not have a mechanism for homeowners to readily access a neutral third party to assist them in a fair and timely way; and

(d) Several jurisdictions across the nation have foreclosure mediation programs that provide a cost-effective process for the homeowner and lender, with the assistance of a trained mediator, to reach a mutually acceptable resolution that avoids foreclosure.

(2) Therefore, the legislature intends to:

(a) Encourage homeowners to utilize the skills and professional judgment of housing counselors as early as possible in the foreclosure process;

(b) Create a framework for homeowners and beneficiaries to communicate with each other to reach a resolution and avoid foreclosure whenever possible; and

(c) Provide a process for foreclosure mediation when a housing counselor or attorney determines that mediation is appropriate. For mediation to be effective, the parties should attend the mediation (in person, telephonically, through an agent, or otherwise), provide the necessary documentation in a timely manner, willingly share information, actively present, discuss, and explore options to avoid foreclosure, negotiate willingly and cooperatively, maintain a professional and cooperative demeanor, cooperate with the mediator, and keep any agreements made in mediation." [2011 c 58 § 1.]

Short title—2011 c 58: "This act may be known and cited as the foreclosure fairness act." [2011 c 58 § 2.]

RCW 61.24.008 Borrower referred to mediation—When. (1) A borrower who has been referred to mediation before June 7, 2012, may continue through the mediation process and does not lose his or her right to mediation.

(2) A borrower who has not been referred to mediation as of June 7, 2012, may only be referred to mediation after a notice of default has been issued but no later than 90 days prior to the date of sale listed in the notice of trustee's sale. If an amended notice of trustee's sale is recorded after the trustee sale has been stayed pursuant to RCW 61.24.130, the borrower may be referred to mediation no later than 25 days prior to the date of sale listed in the amended notice of trustee's sale.

(3) A borrower who has not been referred to mediation as of June 7, 2012, and who has had a notice of sale recorded may only be referred to mediation if the referral is made at least 90 days prior to the date of sale listed in the notice of trustee's sale. If an

amended notice of trustee's sale is recorded, the borrower may be referred to mediation no later than 25 days prior to the date of sale listed in the amended notice of trustee's sale. [2023 c 206 § 1; 2012 c 185 § 11.]

RCW 61.24.010 Trustee, qualifications—Successor trustee. (1)

The trustee of a deed of trust under this chapter shall be:

(a) Any domestic corporation or domestic limited liability corporation incorporated under Title 23B, 25, *30, 31, 32, or 33 RCW of which at least one officer is a Washington resident; or

(b) Any title insurance company authorized to insure title to real property under the laws of this state, or any title insurance agent licensed under chapter 48.17 RCW; or

(c) Any attorney who is an active member of the Washington state bar association at the time the attorney is named trustee; or

(d) Any professional corporation incorporated under chapter 18.100 RCW, any professional limited liability company formed under chapter 25.15 RCW, any general partnership, including limited liability partnerships, formed under **chapter 25.04 RCW, all of whose shareholders, members, or partners, respectively, are either licensed attorneys or entities, provided all of the owners of those entities are licensed attorneys, or any domestic corporation wholly owned by any of the entities under this subsection (1)(d); or

(e) Any agency or instrumentality of the United States government; or

(f) Any national bank, savings bank, or savings and loan association chartered under the laws of the United States.

(2) The trustee may resign at its own election or be replaced by the beneficiary. The trustee shall give prompt written notice of its resignation to the beneficiary. The resignation of the trustee shall become effective upon the recording of the notice of resignation in each county in which the deed of trust is recorded. If a trustee is not appointed in the deed of trust, or upon the resignation, incapacity, disability, absence, or death of the trustee, or the election of the beneficiary to replace the trustee, the beneficiary shall appoint a trustee or a successor trustee. Only upon recording the appointment of a successor trustee in each county in which the deed of trust is recorded, the successor trustee shall be vested with all powers of an original trustee.

(3) The trustee or successor trustee shall have no fiduciary duty or fiduciary obligation to the grantor or other persons having an interest in the property subject to the deed of trust.

(4) The trustee or successor trustee has a duty of good faith to the borrower, beneficiary, and grantor. [2012 c 185 § 13; 2009 c 292 § 7; 2008 c 153 § 1; 1998 c 295 § 2; 1991 c 72 § 58; 1987 c 352 § 1; 1981 c 161 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 129 § 1; 1965 c 74 § 1.]

Reviser's note: *(1) Title 30 RCW was recodified and/or repealed pursuant to 2014 c 37.

** (2) Chapter 25.04 RCW was repealed in its entirety by 1998 c 103 § 1308.

RCW 61.24.020 Deeds subject to all mortgage laws—Foreclosure—Recording and indexing—Trustee and beneficiary, separate entities, exception. Except as provided in this chapter, a deed of trust is

subject to all laws relating to mortgages on real property. A deed conveying real property to a trustee in trust to secure the performance of an obligation of the grantor or another to the beneficiary may be foreclosed by trustee's sale. The county auditor shall record the deed as a mortgage and shall index the name of the grantor as mortgagor and the names of the trustee and beneficiary as mortgagee. No person, corporation or association may be both trustee and beneficiary under the same deed of trust: PROVIDED, That any agency of the United States government may be both trustee and beneficiary under the same deed of trust. A deed of trust conveying real property that is used principally for agricultural purposes may be foreclosed as a mortgage. Pursuant to *RCW 62A.9-501(4), when a deed of trust encumbers both real and personal property, the trustee is authorized to sell all or any portion of the grantor's interest in that real and personal property at a trustee's sale. [1998 c 295 § 3; 1985 c 193 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 129 § 2; 1965 c 74 § 2.]

***Reviser's note:** Article 62A.9 RCW was repealed in its entirety by 2000 c 250 § 9A-901, effective July 1, 2001. For later enactment, see Article 62A.9A RCW.

Application—1985 c 193: "This act shall apply to foreclosures commenced, by the giving of a notice of default pursuant to RCW 61.24.030(6), after July 28, 1985." [1985 c 193 § 5.]

RCW 61.24.025 Application of federal servicemembers civil relief act to deeds of trust. All of the rights, duties, and privileges conveyed under the federal servicemembers civil relief act, P.L. 108-189, are applicable to deeds of trust under Washington law. [2004 c 161 § 5.]

Effective date—2004 c 161: See note following RCW 28B.10.270.

RCW 61.24.026 Notice to senior beneficiary of sale—Residential, owner-occupied—Proceeds of sale insufficient to pay in full obligation—Timeline—Failure of beneficiary to respond. (1) Whenever (a) consummation of a written agreement for the purchase and sale of owner-occupied residential real property would result in contractual sale proceeds that are insufficient to pay in full the obligation owed to a senior beneficiary of a deed of trust encumbering the residential real property; and (b) the seller makes a written offer to the senior beneficiary to accept the entire net proceeds of the sale in order to facilitate closing of the purchase and sale; then the senior beneficiary must, within one hundred twenty days after the receipt of the written offer, deliver to the seller, in writing, an acceptance, rejection, or counter-offer of the seller's written offer. The senior beneficiary may determine, in its sole discretion, whether to accept, reject, or counter-offer the seller's written offer.

(2) This section applies only when the written offer to the senior beneficiary is received by the senior beneficiary prior to the issuance of a notice of default. The offer must include a copy of the purchase and sale agreement. The offer must be sent to the address of the senior beneficiary or the address of a party acting as a servicer of the obligation secured by the deed of trust.

(3) A seller has a right of action for actual monetary damages incurred as a result of the senior beneficiary's failure to comply with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section.

(4) A senior beneficiary is not liable for the actions or inactions of any other lienholder.

(5) (a) This section does not apply to deeds of trust: (i) Securing a commercial loan; (ii) securing obligations of a grantor who is not the borrower or a guarantor; or (iii) securing a purchaser's obligations under a seller-financed sale.

(b) This section does not apply to beneficiaries that are exempt from RCW 61.24.163, if enacted, or if not enacted, to beneficiaries that conduct fewer than two hundred fifty trustee sales per year.

(6) This section does not alter a beneficiary's right to issue a notice of default and does not lengthen or shorten any time period imposed or required under this chapter. [2011 c 364 § 1.]

RCW 61.24.030 Requisites to trustee's sale. It shall be requisite to a trustee's sale:

(1) That the deed of trust contains a power of sale;

(2) That the deed of trust contains a statement that the real property conveyed is not used principally for agricultural purposes; provided, if the statement is false on the date the deed of trust was granted or amended to include that statement, and false on the date of the trustee's sale, then the deed of trust must be foreclosed judicially. Real property is used for agricultural purposes if it is used in an operation that produces crops, livestock, or aquatic goods;

(3) That a default has occurred in the obligation secured or a covenant of the grantor, which by the terms of the deed of trust makes operative the power to sell;

(4) That no action commenced by the beneficiary of the deed of trust is now pending to seek satisfaction of an obligation secured by the deed of trust in any court by reason of the grantor's default on the obligation secured: PROVIDED, That (a) the seeking of the appointment of a receiver, or the filing of a civil case to obtain court approval to access, secure, maintain, and preserve property from waste or nuisance, shall not constitute an action for purposes of this chapter; and (b) if a receiver is appointed, the grantor shall be entitled to any rents or profits derived from property subject to a homestead as defined in RCW 6.13.010. If the deed of trust was granted to secure a commercial loan, this subsection shall not apply to actions brought to enforce any other lien or security interest granted to secure the obligation secured by the deed of trust being foreclosed;

(5) That the deed of trust has been recorded in each county in which the land or some part thereof is situated;

(6) That prior to the date of the notice of trustee's sale and continuing thereafter through the date of the trustee's sale, the trustee must maintain a street address in this state where personal service of process may be made, and the trustee must maintain a physical presence and have telephone service at such address;

(7) (a) That, for residential real property of up to four units, before the notice of trustee's sale is recorded, transmitted, or served, the trustee shall have proof that the beneficiary is the holder of any promissory note or other obligation secured by the deed of trust. A declaration by the beneficiary made under the penalty of perjury stating that the beneficiary is the holder of any promissory

note or other obligation secured by the deed of trust shall be sufficient proof as required under this subsection.

(b) Unless the trustee has violated his or her duty under RCW 61.24.010(4), the trustee is entitled to rely on the beneficiary's declaration as evidence of proof required under this subsection.

(c) This subsection (7) does not apply to association beneficiaries subject to chapter 64.32, 64.34, or 64.38 RCW;

(8) That at least 30 days before notice of sale shall be recorded, transmitted or served, written notice of default and, for residential real property of up to four units, the beneficiary declaration specified in subsection (7)(a) of this section shall be transmitted by the beneficiary or trustee to the borrower and grantor at their last known addresses by both first-class and either registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and the beneficiary or trustee shall cause to be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises, a copy of the notice, or personally served on the borrower and grantor. This notice shall contain the following information:

(a) A description of the property which is then subject to the deed of trust;

(b) A statement identifying each county in which the deed of trust is recorded and the document number given to the deed of trust upon recording by each county auditor or recording officer;

(c) A statement that the beneficiary has declared the borrower or grantor to be in default, and a concise statement of the default alleged;

(d) An itemized account of the amount or amounts in arrears if the default alleged is failure to make payments;

(e) An itemized account of all other specific charges, costs, or fees that the borrower, grantor, or any guarantor is or may be obliged to pay to reinstate the deed of trust before the recording of the notice of sale;

(f) A statement showing the total of (d) and (e) of this subsection, designated clearly and conspicuously as the amount necessary to reinstate the note and deed of trust before the recording of the notice of sale;

(g) A statement that failure to cure the alleged default within 30 days of the date of mailing of the notice, or if personally served, within 30 days of the date of personal service thereof, may lead to recordation, transmittal, and publication of a notice of sale, and that the property described in (a) of this subsection may be sold at public auction at a date no less than 120 days in the future, or no less than 150 days in the future if the borrower received a letter under RCW 61.24.031;

(h) A statement that the effect of the recordation, transmittal, and publication of a notice of sale will be to (i) increase the costs and fees and (ii) publicize the default and advertise the grantor's property for sale;

(i) A statement that the effect of the sale of the grantor's property by the trustee will be to deprive the grantor of all their interest in the property described in (a) of this subsection;

(j) A statement that the borrower, grantor, and any guarantor has recourse to the courts pursuant to RCW 61.24.130 to contest the alleged default on any proper ground;

(k) In the event the property secured by the deed of trust is residential real property of up to four units, a statement,

prominently set out at the beginning of the notice, which shall state as follows:

"THIS NOTICE IS ONE STEP IN A PROCESS THAT COULD RESULT IN YOUR LOSING YOUR HOME.

You may be eligible for mediation in front of a neutral third party to help save your home.

CONTACT A HOUSING COUNSELOR OR AN ATTORNEY LICENSED IN WASHINGTON NOW to assess your situation and refer you to mediation if you might benefit. Mediation **MUST** be requested between the time you receive the Notice of Default and no later than **90 calendar days BEFORE the date of sale** listed in the Notice of Trustee Sale. If an amended Notice of Trustee Sale is recorded providing a 45-day notice of the sale, mediation must be requested no later than **25 calendar days BEFORE the date of sale** listed in the amended Notice of Trustee Sale.

DO NOT DELAY. If you do nothing, a notice of sale may be issued as soon as 30 days from the date of this notice of default. The notice of sale will provide a minimum of 120 days' notice of the date of the actual foreclosure sale.

BE CAREFUL of people who claim they can help you. There are many individuals and businesses that prey upon borrowers in distress.

REFER TO THE CONTACTS BELOW for sources of assistance.

SEEKING ASSISTANCE

Housing counselors and legal assistance may be available at little or no cost to you. If you would like assistance in determining your rights and opportunities to keep your house, you may contact the following:

The statewide foreclosure hotline for assistance and referral to housing counselors recommended by the Housing Finance Commission
Telephone: Website:

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
Telephone: Website:

The statewide civil legal aid hotline for assistance and referrals to other housing counselors and attorneys
Telephone: Website:"

The beneficiary or trustee shall obtain the toll-free numbers and website information from the department for inclusion in the notice;

- (l) In the event the property secured by the deed of trust is residential real property of up to four units, the name and address of the holder of any promissory note or other obligation secured by the deed of trust and the name, address, and telephone number of a party acting as a servicer of the obligations secured by the deed of trust;
- (m) For notices issued after June 30, 2018, on the top of the first page of the notice:
 - (i) The current beneficiary of the deed of trust;
 - (ii) The current mortgage servicer for the deed of trust; and
 - (iii) The current trustee for the deed of trust;

- (9) That, for residential real property of up to four units, before the notice of the trustee's sale is recorded, transmitted, or served, the beneficiary has complied with RCW 61.24.031 and, if applicable, RCW 61.24.163;
- (10) That, in the case where the borrower or grantor is known to the mortgage servicer or trustee to be deceased, the notice required under subsection (8) of this section must be sent to any spouse,

child, or parent of the borrower or grantor known to the trustee or mortgage servicer, and to any owner of record of the property, at any address provided to the trustee or mortgage servicer, and to the property addressed to the heirs and devisees of the borrower.

(a) If the name or address of any spouse, child, or parent of such deceased borrower or grantor cannot be ascertained with use of reasonable diligence, the trustee must execute and record with the notice of sale a declaration attesting to the same.

(b) Reasonable diligence for the purposes of this subsection (10) means the trustee shall search in the county where the property is located, the public records and information for any obituary, will, death certificate, or case in probate within the county for the borrower and grantor;

(11) Upon written notice identifying the property address and the name of the borrower to the servicer or trustee by someone claiming to be a successor in interest to the borrower's or grantor's property rights, but who is not a party to the loan or promissory note or other obligation secured by the deed of trust, a trustee shall not record a notice of sale pursuant to RCW 61.24.040 until the trustee or mortgage servicer completes the following:

(a) Acknowledges the notice in writing and requests reasonable documentation of the death of the borrower or grantor from the claimant including, but not limited to, a death certificate or other written evidence of the death of the borrower or grantor. Other written evidence of the death of the borrower or grantor may include an obituary, a published death notice, or documentation of an open probate action for the estate of the borrower or grantor. The claimant must be allowed 30 days from the date of this request to present this documentation. If the trustee or mortgage servicer has already obtained sufficient proof of the borrower's death, it may proceed by acknowledging the claimant's notice in writing and issuing a request under (b) of this subsection.

(b) If the mortgage servicer or trustee obtains or receives written documentation of the death of the borrower or grantor from the claimant, or otherwise independently confirms the death of the borrower or grantor, then the servicer or trustee must request in writing documentation from the claimant demonstrating the ownership interest of the claimant in the real property. A claimant has 60 days from the date of the request to present this documentation. Documentation demonstrating the ownership interest of the claimant in the real property includes, but is not limited to, one of the following:

(i) Excerpts of a trust document noting the claimant as a beneficiary of a trust with title to the real property;

(ii) A will of the borrower or grantor listing the claimant as an heir or devisee with respect to the real property;

(iii) A probate order or finding of heirship issued by any court documenting the claimant as an heir or devisee or awarding the real property to the claimant;

(iv) A recorded lack of probate affidavit signed by any heir listing the claimant as an heir of the borrower or grantor pursuant to the laws of intestacy;

(v) A deed, such as a personal representative's deed, trustee's deed issued on behalf of a trust, statutory warranty deed, transfer on death deed, or other deed, giving any ownership interest to the claimant resulting from the death of the borrower or grantor or executed by the borrower or grantor for estate planning purposes; and

(vi) Other proof documenting the claimant as an heir of the borrower or grantor pursuant to state rules of intestacy set forth in chapter 11.04 RCW.

(c) If the mortgage servicer or trustee receives written documentation demonstrating the ownership interest of the claimant prior to the expiration of the 60 days provided in (b) of this subsection, then the servicer or trustee must, within 20 days of receipt of proof of ownership interest, provide the claimant with, at a minimum, the loan balance, interest rate and interest reset dates and amounts, balloon payments if any, prepayment penalties if any, the basis for the default, the monthly payment amount, reinstatement amounts or conditions, payoff amounts, and information on how and where payments should be made. The mortgage servicers shall also provide the claimant application materials and information, or a description of the process, necessary to request a loan assumption and modification.

(d) Upon receipt by the trustee or the mortgage servicer of the documentation establishing claimant's ownership interest in the real property, that claimant shall be deemed a "successor in interest" for the purposes of this section.

(e) There may be more than one successor in interest to the borrower's property rights. The trustee and mortgage servicer shall apply the provisions of this section to each successor in interest. In the case of multiple successors in interest, where one or more do not wish to assume the loan as coborrowers or coapplicants, a mortgage servicer may require any nonapplicant successor in interest to consent in writing to the application for loan assumption.

(f) The existence of a successor in interest under this section does not impose an affirmative duty on a mortgage servicer or alter any obligation the mortgage servicer has to provide a loan modification to the successor in interest. If a successor in interest assumes the loan, he or she may be required to otherwise qualify for available foreclosure prevention alternatives offered by the mortgage servicer.

(g) (c), (e), and (f) of this subsection (11) do not apply to association beneficiaries subject to chapter 64.32, 64.34, or 64.38 RCW; and

(12) Nothing in this section shall prejudice the right of the mortgage servicer or beneficiary from discontinuing any foreclosure action initiated under the deed of trust act in favor of other allowed methods for pursuit of foreclosure of the security interest or deed of trust security interest. [2023 c 206 § 2; 2021 c 151 § 3; 2018 c 306 § 1; 2012 c 185 § 9; 2011 c 58 § 4; 2009 c 292 § 8. Prior: 2008 c 153 § 2; 2008 c 108 § 22; 1998 c 295 § 4; 1990 c 111 § 1; 1987 c 352 § 2; 1985 c 193 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 129 § 3; 1965 c 74 § 3.]

Effective date—2021 c 151 §§ 1-4, 6-8, and 10: See note following RCW 61.24.005.

Findings—Intent—2021 c 151: See note following RCW 61.24.005.

Findings—Intent—Short title—2011 c 58: See notes following RCW 61.24.005.

Findings—2008 c 108: See RCW 19.144.005.

Application—1985 c 193: See note following RCW 61.24.020.

RCW 61.24.031 Notice of default under RCW 61.24.030(8)—

Beneficiary's duties—Borrower's options. (1)(a) A trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent may not issue a notice of default under RCW 61.24.030(8) until: (i) Thirty days after satisfying the due diligence requirements as described in subsection (5) of this section and the borrower has not responded; or (ii) if the borrower responds to the initial contact, ninety days after the initial contact with the borrower was initiated.

(b) A beneficiary or authorized agent shall make initial contact with the borrower by letter to provide the borrower with information required under (c) of this subsection and by telephone as required under subsection (5) of this section. The letter required under this subsection must be mailed in accordance with subsection (5)(a) of this section and must include the information described in (c) of this subsection and subsection (5)(e)(i) through (iv) of this section.

(c) The letter required under this subsection, developed by the department pursuant to RCW 61.24.033, at a minimum shall include:

(i) A paragraph printed in no less than twelve-point font and bolded that reads:

"You must respond within thirty days of the date of this letter. IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND within thirty days, a notice of default may be issued and you may lose your home in foreclosure.

IF YOU DO RESPOND within thirty days of the date of this letter, you will have an additional sixty days to meet with your lender before a notice of default may be issued.

You should contact a housing counselor or attorney as soon as possible. Failure to contact a housing counselor or attorney may result in your losing certain opportunities, such as meeting with your lender or participating in mediation in front of a neutral third party. A housing counselor or attorney can help you work with your lender to avoid foreclosure.

If you filed bankruptcy or have been discharged in bankruptcy, this communication is not intended as an attempt to collect a debt from you personally, but is notice of enforcement of the deed of trust lien against the property. If you wish to avoid foreclosure and keep your property, this notice sets forth your rights and options.";

(ii) The toll-free telephone number from the United States department of housing and urban development to find a department-approved housing counseling agency, the toll-free numbers for the statewide foreclosure hotline recommended by the housing finance commission, and the statewide civil legal aid hotline for assistance and referrals to other housing counselors and attorneys;

(iii) A paragraph stating that a housing counselor may be available at little or no cost to the borrower and that whether or not the borrower contacts a housing counselor or attorney, the borrower has the right to request a meeting with the beneficiary; and

(iv) A paragraph explaining how the borrower may respond to the letter and stating that after responding the borrower will have an opportunity to meet with his or her beneficiary in an attempt to resolve and try to work out an alternative to the foreclosure and that, after ninety days from the date of the letter, a notice of default may be issued, which starts the foreclosure process.

(d) If the beneficiary has exercised due diligence as required under subsection (5) of this section and the borrower does not respond by contacting the beneficiary within thirty days of the initial contact, the notice of default may be issued. "Initial contact" with the borrower is considered made three days after the date the letter required in (b) of this subsection is sent.

(e) If a meeting is requested by the borrower or the borrower's housing counselor or attorney, the beneficiary or authorized agent shall schedule the meeting to occur before the notice of default is issued. An assessment of the borrower's financial ability to modify or restructure the loan obligation and a discussion of options must occur during the meeting scheduled for that purpose.

(f) The meeting scheduled to assess the borrower's financial ability to modify or restructure the loan obligation and discuss options to avoid foreclosure may be held telephonically, unless the borrower or borrower's representative requests in writing that a meeting be held in person. The written request for an in-person meeting must be made within thirty days of the initial contact with the borrower. If the meeting is requested to be held in person, the meeting must be held in the county where the property is located unless the parties agree otherwise. A person who is authorized to agree to a resolution, including modifying or restructuring the loan obligation or other alternative resolution to foreclosure on behalf of the beneficiary, must be present either in person or on the telephone or videoconference during the meeting.

(2) A notice of default issued under RCW 61.24.030(8) must include a declaration, as provided in subsection (9) of this section, from the beneficiary or authorized agent that it has contacted the borrower as provided in subsection (1) of this section, it has tried with due diligence to contact the borrower under subsection (5) of this section, or the borrower has surrendered the property to the trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent. Unless the trustee has violated his or her duty under RCW 61.24.010(4), the trustee is entitled to rely on the declaration as evidence that the requirements of this section have been satisfied, and the trustee is not liable for the beneficiary's or its authorized agent's failure to comply with the requirements of this section.

(3) If, after the initial contact under subsection (1) of this section, a borrower has designated a housing counseling agency, housing counselor, or attorney to discuss with the beneficiary or authorized agent, on the borrower's behalf, options for the borrower to avoid foreclosure, the borrower shall inform the beneficiary or authorized agent and provide the contact information to the beneficiary or authorized agent. The beneficiary or authorized agent shall contact the designated representative for the borrower to meet.

(4) The beneficiary or authorized agent and the borrower or the borrower's representative shall attempt to reach a resolution for the borrower within the ninety days from the time the initial contact is sent and the notice of default is issued. A resolution may include, but is not limited to, a loan modification, an agreement to conduct a short sale, or a deed in lieu of foreclosure transaction, or some other workout plan. Any modification or workout plan offered at the meeting with the borrower's designated representative by the beneficiary or authorized agent is subject to approval by the borrower.

(5) A notice of default may be issued under RCW 61.24.030(8) if a beneficiary or authorized agent has initiated contact with the

borrower as required under subsection (1)(b) of this section and the failure to meet with the borrower occurred despite the due diligence of the beneficiary or authorized agent. Due diligence requires the following:

(a) A beneficiary or authorized agent shall first attempt to contact a borrower by sending, by both first-class and either registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, a letter to the address in the beneficiary's records for sending account statements to the borrower and to the address of the property encumbered by the deed of trust. The letter must be the letter described in subsection (1)(c) of this section.

(b)(i) After the letter has been sent, the beneficiary or authorized agent shall attempt to contact the borrower by telephone at least three times at different hours and on different days. Telephone calls must be made to the primary and secondary telephone numbers on file with the beneficiary or authorized agent.

(ii) A beneficiary or authorized agent may attempt to contact a borrower using an automated system to dial borrowers if the telephone call, when answered, is connected to a live representative of the beneficiary or authorized agent.

(iii) A beneficiary or authorized agent satisfies the telephone contact requirements of this subsection (5)(b) if the beneficiary or authorized agent determines, after attempting contact under this subsection (5)(b), that the borrower's primary telephone number and secondary telephone number or numbers on file, if any, have been disconnected or are not good contact numbers for the borrower.

(iv) The telephonic contact under this subsection (5)(b) does not constitute the meeting under subsection (1)(f) of this section.

(c) If the borrower does not respond within fourteen days after the telephone call requirements of (b) of this subsection have been satisfied, the beneficiary or authorized agent shall send a certified letter, with return receipt requested, to the borrower at the address in the beneficiary's records for sending account statements to the borrower and to the address of the property encumbered by the deed of trust. The letter must include the information described in (e)(i) through (iv) of this subsection. The letter must also include a paragraph stating: "Your failure to contact a housing counselor or attorney may result in your losing certain opportunities, such as meeting with your lender or participating in mediation in front of a neutral third party."

(d) The beneficiary or authorized agent shall provide a means for the borrower to contact the beneficiary or authorized agent in a timely manner, including a toll-free telephone number or charge-free equivalent that will provide access to a live representative during business hours for the purpose of initiating and scheduling the meeting under subsection (1)(f) of this section.

(e) The beneficiary or authorized agent shall post a link on the home page of the beneficiary's or authorized agent's internet website, if any, to the following information:

(i) Options that may be available to borrowers who are unable to afford their mortgage payments and who wish to avoid foreclosure, and instructions to borrowers advising them on steps to take to explore those options;

(ii) A list of financial documents borrowers should collect and be prepared to present to the beneficiary or authorized agent when discussing options for avoiding foreclosure;

(iii) A toll-free telephone number or charge-free equivalent for borrowers who wish to discuss options for avoiding foreclosure with their beneficiary or authorized agent; and

(iv) The toll-free telephone number or charge-free equivalent made available by the department to find a department-approved housing counseling agency.

(6) Subsections (1) and (5) of this section do not apply if the borrower has surrendered the property as evidenced by either a letter confirming the surrender or delivery of the keys to the property to the trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent.

(7) (a) This section applies only to deeds of trust that are recorded against residential real property of up to four units. This section does not apply to deeds of trust: (i) Securing a commercial loan; (ii) securing obligations of a grantor who is not the borrower or a guarantor; or (iii) securing a purchaser's obligations under a seller-financed sale.

(b) This section does not apply to association beneficiaries subject to chapter 64.32, 64.34, or 64.38 RCW.

(8) As used in this section:

(a) "Department" means the United States department of housing and urban development.

(b) "Seller-financed sale" means a residential real property transaction where the seller finances all or part of the purchase price, and that financed amount is secured by a deed of trust against the subject residential real property.

(9) The form of declaration to be provided by the beneficiary or authorized agent as required under subsection (2) of this section must be in substantially the following form:

"FORECLOSURE LOSS MITIGATION FORM

Please select applicable option(s) below.

The undersigned beneficiary or authorized agent for the beneficiary hereby represents and declares under the penalty of perjury that [check the applicable box and fill in any blanks so that the beneficiary, authorized agent, or trustee can insert, on the beneficiary's behalf, the applicable declaration in the notice of default required under chapter 61.24 RCW]:

(1) [] The beneficiary or beneficiary's authorized agent has contacted the borrower under, and has complied with, RCW 61.24.031 (contact provision to "assess the borrower's financial ability to pay the debt secured by the deed of trust and explore options for the borrower to avoid foreclosure") and the borrower responded but did not request a meeting.

(2) [] The beneficiary or beneficiary's authorized agent has contacted the borrower as required under RCW 61.24.031 and the borrower or the borrower's designated representative requested a meeting. A meeting was held on (insert date, time, and location/telephonic here) in compliance with RCW 61.24.031.

(3) [] The beneficiary or beneficiary's authorized agent has contacted the borrower as required in RCW 61.24.031 and the borrower or the borrower's designated representative requested a meeting. A meeting was scheduled for (insert date, time, and location/telephonic here) and neither the borrower nor the borrower's designated representative appeared.

(4) [] The beneficiary or beneficiary's authorized agent has exercised due diligence to contact the borrower as required in RCW 61.24.031(5) and the borrower did not respond.

(5) [] The borrower has surrendered the secured property as evidenced by either a letter confirming the surrender or by delivery of the keys to the secured property to the beneficiary, the beneficiary's authorized agent or to the trustee.

Additional Optional Explanatory Comments:

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[2021 c 151 § 4; 2014 c 164 § 2; 2012 c 185 § 4; 2011 c 58 § 5; 2009 c 292 § 2.]

Effective date—2021 c 151 §§ 1-4, 6-8, and 10: See note following RCW 61.24.005.

Findings—Intent—2021 c 151: See note following RCW 61.24.005.

Findings—Intent—Short title—2011 c 58: See notes following RCW 61.24.005.

RCW 61.24.033 Model language for initial contact letter used by beneficiaries—Rules. (1)(a) The department must develop model language for the initial contact letter to be used by beneficiaries as required under RCW 61.24.031. The model language must explain how the borrower may respond to the letter. The department must develop the model language in both English and Spanish and both versions must be contained in the same letter.

(b) No later than thirty days after April 14, 2011, the department must create the following forms:

(i) The notice form to be used by housing counselors and attorneys to refer borrowers to mediation under RCW 61.24.163;

(ii) The notice form stating that the parties have been referred to mediation along with the required information under RCW 61.24.163(3)(a);

(iii) The waiver form as required in *RCW 61.24.163(4)(b);

(iv) The scheduling form notice in *RCW 61.24.163(5)(b); and

(v) The form for the mediator's written certification of mediation.

(2) The department may create rules to implement the mediation program under RCW 61.24.163 and to administer the funds as required under RCW 61.24.172. [2011 c 58 § 16.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 61.24.163 was amended by 2011 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 1, deleting subsection (4)(b). RCW 61.24.163 was subsequently amended by 2012 c 185 § 6, changing subsection (5)(b) to subsection (7)(b).

Findings—Intent—Short title—2011 c 58: See notes following RCW 61.24.005.

Effective date—2011 c 58 §§ 11, 12, and 16: See note following RCW 61.24.172.

RCW 61.24.040 Foreclosure and sale—Notice of sale. A deed of trust foreclosed under this chapter shall be foreclosed as follows:

(1) At least 90 days before the sale, or if a letter under RCW 61.24.031 is required, at least 120 days before the sale, the trustee shall:

(a) Record a notice in the form described in subsection (2) of this section in the office of the auditor in each county in which the deed of trust is recorded;

(b) To the extent the trustee elects to foreclose its lien or interest, or the beneficiary elects to preserve its right to seek a deficiency judgment against a borrower or grantor under RCW 61.24.100(3)(a), and if their addresses are stated in a recorded instrument evidencing their interest, lien, or claim of lien, or an amendment thereto, or are otherwise known to the trustee, cause a copy of the notice of sale described in subsection (2) of this section to be transmitted by both first-class and either certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to the following persons or their legal representatives, if any, at such address:

(i) (A) The borrower and grantor;

(B) In the case where the borrower or grantor is deceased, to any successors in interest. If no successor in interest has been established, then to any spouse, child, or parent of the borrower or grantor, at the addresses discovered by the trustee pursuant to RCW 61.24.030(10);

(ii) The beneficiary of any deed of trust or mortgagee of any mortgage, or any person who has a lien or claim of lien against the property, that was recorded subsequent to the recordation of the deed of trust being foreclosed and before the recordation of the notice of sale;

(iii) The vendee in any real estate contract, the lessee in any lease, or the holder of any conveyances of any interest or estate in any portion or all of the property described in such notice, if that contract, lease, or conveyance of such interest or estate, or a memorandum or other notice thereof, was recorded after the recordation of the deed of trust being foreclosed and before the recordation of the notice of sale;

(iv) The last holder of record of any other lien against or interest in the property that is subject to a subordination to the deed of trust being foreclosed that was recorded before the recordation of the notice of sale;

(v) The last holder of record of the lien of any judgment subordinate to the deed of trust being foreclosed; and

(vi) The occupants of property consisting solely of a single-family residence, or a condominium, cooperative, or other dwelling unit in a multiplex or other building containing fewer than five residential units, whether or not the occupant's rental agreement is recorded, which notice may be a single notice addressed to "occupants" for each unit known to the trustee or beneficiary;

(c) Cause a copy of the notice of sale described in subsection (2) of this section to be transmitted by both first-class and either certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney of record, in any court action to foreclose a lien or other encumbrance on all or any part of the property, provided a court action is pending and a lis pendens in connection therewith is recorded in the office of the auditor of any

county in which all or part of the property is located on the date the notice is recorded;

(d) Cause a copy of the notice of sale described in subsection (2) of this section to be transmitted by both first-class and either certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to any person who has recorded a request for notice in accordance with RCW 61.24.045, at the address specified in such person's most recently recorded request for notice;

(e) Cause a copy of the notice of sale described in subsection (2) of this section to be posted in a conspicuous place on the property, or in lieu of posting, cause a copy of said notice to be served upon any occupant of the property.

(2)(a) If foreclosing on a commercial loan under RCW 61.24.005(4), the title of the document must be "Notice of Trustee's Sale of Commercial Loan(s)";

(b) In addition to all other indexing requirements, the notice required in subsection (1) of this section must clearly indicate on the first page the following information, which the auditor will index:

(i) The document number or numbers given to the deed of trust upon recording;

(ii) The parcel number(s);

(iii) The grantor;

(iv) The current beneficiary of the deed of trust;

(v) The current trustee of the deed of trust; and

(vi) The current loan mortgage servicer of the deed of trust;

(c) Nothing in this section:

(i) Requires a trustee or beneficiary to cause to be recorded any new notice of trustee's sale upon transfer of the beneficial interest in a deed of trust or the servicing rights for the associated mortgage loan;

(ii) Relieves a mortgage loan servicer of any obligation to provide the borrower with notice of a transfer of servicing rights or other legal obligations related to the transfer; or

(iii) Prevents the trustee from disclosing the beneficiary's identity to the borrower and to county and municipal officials seeking to abate nuisance and abandoned property in foreclosure pursuant to chapter 35.21 RCW;

(d) The notice must be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Grantor:

Current beneficiary of the deed of trust:

Current trustee of the deed of trust:

Current mortgage servicer of the deed of trust:

Reference number of the deed of trust:

Parcel number(s):

I.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Trustee will on the day of , . . . , at the hour of o'clock M. at

. . . . [street address and location if inside a building] in the City of , State of Washington, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder, payable at the time of sale, the following described real

property, situated in the County(ies) of, State of Washington, to-wit:

[If any personal property is to be included in the trustee's sale, include a description that reasonably identifies such personal property]

which is subject to that certain Deed of Trust dated, . . ., recorded, . . ., under Auditor's File No., records of County, Washington, from, as Grantor, to, as Trustee, to secure an obligation in favor of, as Beneficiary, the beneficial interest in which was assigned by, under an Assignment recorded under Auditor's File No. [Include recording information for all counties if the Deed of Trust is recorded in more than one county.]

II.

No action commenced by the Beneficiary of the Deed of Trust is now pending to seek satisfaction of the obligation in any Court by reason of the Borrower's or Grantor's default on the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust.

[If there is another action pending to foreclose other security for all or part of the same debt, qualify the statement and identify the action.]

III.

The default(s) for which this foreclosure is made is/are as follows:

[If default is for other than payment of money, set forth the particulars]

Failure to pay when due the following amounts which are now in arrears:

IV.

The sum owing on the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust is: Principal \$, together with interest as provided in the note or other instrument secured from the day of, . . ., and such other costs and fees as are due under the note or other instrument secured, and as are provided by statute.

V.

The above-described real property will be sold to satisfy the expense of sale and the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust as provided by statute. The sale will be made without warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances on the day of, . . . The default(s) referred to in paragraph III must be cured by the day of, . . . (11 days before the sale date), to cause a discontinuance of the sale. The sale will be discontinued and terminated if at any time on or before the day of, . . ., (11 days before the sale date), the default(s) as set forth in paragraph III is/are cured and the Trustee's fees and costs are paid. The sale may be terminated any time after the day of, . . . (11 days before the sale date), and before the sale by the Borrower, Grantor, any Guarantor, or the holder of any recorded junior lien or encumbrance paying the entire principal and interest secured by the Deed of Trust, plus

costs, fees, and advances, if any, made pursuant to the terms of the obligation and/or Deed of Trust, and curing all other defaults.

VI.

A written notice of default was transmitted by the Beneficiary or Trustee to the Borrower and Grantor at the following addresses:

by both first-class and certified mail on the day of, . . ., proof of which is in the possession of the Trustee; and the Borrower and Grantor were personally served on the day of, . . ., with said written notice of default or the written notice of default was posted in a conspicuous place on the real property described in paragraph I above, and the Trustee has possession of proof of such service or posting.

VII.

The Trustee whose name and address are set forth below will provide in writing to anyone requesting it, a statement of all costs and fees due at any time prior to the sale.

VIII.

The effect of the sale will be to deprive the Grantor and all those who hold by, through or under the Grantor of all their interest in the above-described property.

IX.

Anyone having any objection to the sale on any grounds whatsoever will be afforded an opportunity to be heard as to those objections if they bring a lawsuit to restrain the sale pursuant to RCW 61.24.130. Failure to bring such a lawsuit may result in a waiver of any proper grounds for invalidating the Trustee's sale.

[Add Part X to this notice if applicable under RCW 61.24.040(11)]

.....
....., Trustee
..... }
..... } Address
..... }
..... } Phone

[Acknowledgment]

(3) If the borrower received a letter under RCW 61.24.031, the notice specified in subsection (2)(d) of this section shall also include the following additional language:

"THIS NOTICE IS THE FINAL STEP BEFORE THE FORECLOSURE SALE OF YOUR HOME.

You have only **until 90 calendar days BEFORE the date of sale** listed in this Notice of Trustee Sale to be referred to mediation. If this is an amended Notice of Trustee Sale providing a 45-day notice of the sale, mediation must be requested no later than **25 calendar days BEFORE the date of sale** listed in this amended Notice of Trustee Sale.

DO NOT DELAY. CONTACT A HOUSING COUNSELOR OR AN ATTORNEY LICENSED IN WASHINGTON NOW to assess your situation and refer you to mediation if

you are eligible and it may help you save your home. See below for safe sources of help.

SEEKING ASSISTANCE

Housing counselors and legal assistance may be available at little or no cost to you. If you would like assistance in determining your rights and opportunities to keep your house, you may contact the following:

The statewide foreclosure hotline for assistance and referral to housing counselors recommended by the Housing Finance Commission
 Telephone: Website:

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
 Telephone: Website:

The statewide civil legal aid hotline for assistance and referrals to other housing counselors and attorneys
 Telephone: Website:"

The beneficiary or trustee shall obtain the toll-free numbers and website information from the department for inclusion in the notice;

(4) In addition to providing the borrower and grantor the notice of sale described in subsection (2) of this section, the trustee shall include with the copy of the notice which is mailed to the grantor, a statement to the grantor in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

Pursuant to the Revised Code of Washington,
 Chapter 61.24 RCW

The attached Notice of Trustee's Sale is a consequence of default(s) in the obligation to, the Beneficiary of your Deed of Trust and holder of the obligation secured thereby. Unless the default(s) is/are cured, your property will be sold at auction on the day of,

To cure the default(s), you must bring the payments current, cure any other defaults, and pay accrued late charges and other costs, advances, and attorneys' fees as set forth below by the day of, . . . [11 days before the sale date]. To date, these arrears and costs are as follows:

	Currently due to reinstate on	Estimated amount that will be due to reinstate on (11 days before the date set for sale)
Delinquent payments from, . . ., in the amount of \$. . . /mo.:	\$	\$
Late charges in the total amount of:	\$	\$
Attorneys' fees:	\$	\$
Trustee's fee:	\$	\$
Trustee's expenses: (Itemization)		Estimated Amounts

Title report	\$....	\$....
Recording fees	\$....	\$....
Service/Posting of Notices	\$....	\$....
Postage/Copying expense	\$....	\$....
Publication	\$....	\$....
Telephone charges	\$....	\$....
Inspection fees	\$....	\$....
.....	\$....	\$....
.....	\$....	\$....
TOTALS	\$....	\$....

To pay off the entire obligation secured by your Deed of Trust as of the day of you must pay a total of \$. in principal, \$. in interest, plus other costs and advances estimated to date in the amount of \$. From and after the date of this notice you must submit a written request to the Trustee to obtain the total amount to pay off the entire obligation secured by your Deed of Trust as of the payoff date.

As to the defaults which do not involve payment of money to the Beneficiary of your Deed of Trust, you must cure each such default. Listed below are the defaults which do not involve payment of money to the Beneficiary of your Deed of Trust. Opposite each such listed default is a brief description of the action necessary to cure the default and a description of the documentation necessary to show that the default has been cured.

Default	Description of Action Required to Cure and Documentation Necessary to Show Cure
.....
.....

You may reinstate your Deed of Trust and the obligation secured thereby at any time up to and including the day of, . . . [11 days before the sale date], by paying the amount set forth or estimated above and by curing any other defaults described above. Of course, as time passes other payments may become due, and any further payments coming due and any additional late charges must be added to your reinstating payment. Any new defaults not involving payment of money that occur after the date of this notice must also be cured in order to effect reinstatement. In addition, because some of the charges can only be estimated at this time, and because the amount necessary to reinstate or to pay off the entire indebtedness may include presently unknown expenditures required to preserve the property or to comply with state or local law, it will be necessary for you to contact the Trustee before the time you tender reinstatement or the payoff amount so that you may be advised of the exact amount you will be required to pay. Tender of payment or performance must be made to:, whose address is, telephone () AFTER THE DAY OF, . . ., YOU MAY NOT REINSTATE YOUR DEED OF TRUST BY PAYING THE BACK PAYMENTS AND COSTS AND FEES AND CURING THE OTHER DEFAULTS AS OUTLINED ABOVE. The Trustee will respond to any written request for current payoff or reinstatement amounts within 10 days of receipt of your written request. In such a case, you will only be able

to stop the sale by paying, before the sale, the total principal balance (\$) plus accrued interest, costs and advances, if any, made pursuant to the terms of the documents and by curing the other defaults as outlined above.

You may contest this default by initiating court action in the Superior Court of the county in which the sale is to be held. In such action, you may raise any legitimate defenses you have to this default. A copy of your Deed of Trust and documents evidencing the obligation secured thereby are enclosed. You may wish to consult a lawyer. Legal action on your part may prevent or restrain the sale, but only if you persuade the court of the merits of your defense. You may contact the Department of Financial Institutions or the statewide civil legal aid hotline for possible assistance or referrals.

The court may grant a restraining order or injunction to restrain a trustee's sale pursuant to RCW 61.24.130 upon five days notice to the trustee of the time when, place where, and the judge before whom the application for the restraining order or injunction is to be made. This notice shall include copies of all pleadings and related documents to be given to the judge. Notice and other process may be served on the trustee at:

NAME:
ADDRESS:
TELEPHONE NUMBER:

If you do not reinstate the secured obligation and your Deed of Trust in the manner set forth above, or if you do not succeed in restraining the sale by court action, your property will be sold. The effect of such sale will be to deprive you and all those who hold by, through or under you of all interest in the property;

(5) In addition, the trustee shall cause a copy of the notice of sale described in subsection (2) (d) of this section (excluding the acknowledgment) to be published in a legal newspaper in each county in which the property or any part thereof is situated, once on or between the 35th and 28th day before the date of sale, and once on or between the 14th and seventh day before the date of sale;

(6) In the case where no successor in interest has been established, and neither the beneficiary nor the trustee are able to ascertain the name and address of any spouse, child, or parent of the borrower or grantor in the manner described in RCW 61.24.030(10), then the trustee may, in addition to mailing notice to the property addressed to the unknown heirs and devisees of the grantor, serve the notice of sale by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or city where the property is located once per week for three consecutive weeks. Upon this service by publication, to be completed not less than 30 days prior to the date the sale is conducted, all unknown heirs shall be deemed served with the notice of sale;

(7) (a) If a servicer or trustee receives notification by someone claiming to be a successor in interest to the borrower or grantor, as under RCW 61.24.030(11), after the recording of the notice of sale, the trustee or servicer must request written documentation within five days demonstrating the ownership interest, provided that, the trustee may, but is not required to, postpone a trustee's sale upon receipt of such notification by someone claiming to be a successor in interest.

(b) Upon receipt of documentation establishing a claimant as a successor in interest, the servicer must provide the information in

RCW 61.24.030(11)(c). Only if the servicer or trustee receives the documentation confirming someone as successor in interest more than 45 days before the scheduled sale must the servicer then provide the information in RCW 61.24.030(11)(c) to the claimant not less than 20 days prior to the sale.

(c) (b) of this subsection (7) does not apply to association beneficiaries subject to chapter 64.32, 64.34, or 64.38 RCW;

(8) On the date and at the time designated in the notice of sale, the trustee or its authorized agent shall sell the property at public auction to the highest bidder. The trustee may sell the property in gross or in parcels as the trustee shall deem most advantageous;

(9) The place of sale shall be at any designated public place within the county where the property is located and if the property is in more than one county, the sale may be in any of the counties where the property is located. The sale shall be on Friday, or if Friday is a legal holiday on the following Monday, and during the hours set by statute for the conduct of sales of real estate at execution;

(10) The trustee has no obligation to, but may, for any cause the trustee deems advantageous, continue the sale for a period or periods not exceeding a total of 120 days by (a) a public proclamation at the time and place fixed for sale in the notice of sale and if the continuance is beyond the date of sale, by giving notice of the new time and place of the sale by both first class and either certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to the persons specified in subsection (1)(b)(i) and (ii) of this section to be deposited in the mail (i) not less than four days before the new date fixed for the sale if the sale is continued for up to seven days; or (ii) not more than three days after the date of the continuance by oral proclamation if the sale is continued for more than seven days, or, alternatively, (b) by giving notice of the time and place of the postponed sale in the manner and to the persons specified in subsection (1)(b), (c), (d), and (e) of this section and publishing a copy of such notice once in the newspaper(s) described in subsection (5) of this section, more than seven days before the date fixed for sale in the notice of sale. No other notice of the postponed sale need be given;

(11) The purchaser shall forthwith pay the price bid. On payment and subject to RCW 61.24.050, the trustee shall execute to the purchaser its deed. The deed shall recite the facts showing that the sale was conducted in compliance with all of the requirements of this chapter and of the deed of trust, which recital shall be prima facie evidence of such compliance and conclusive evidence thereof in favor of bona fide purchasers and encumbrancers for value, except that these recitals shall not affect the lien or interest of any person entitled to notice under subsection (1) of this section, if the trustee fails to give the required notice to such person. In such case, the lien or interest of such omitted person shall not be affected by the sale and such omitted person shall be treated as if such person was the holder of the same lien or interest and was omitted as a party defendant in a judicial foreclosure proceeding;

(12) The sale as authorized under this chapter shall not take place less than 190 days from the date of default in any of the obligations secured;

(13) If the trustee elects to foreclose the interest of any occupant or tenant of property comprised solely of a single-family residence, or a condominium, cooperative, or other dwelling unit in a multiplex or other building containing fewer than five residential

units, the following notice shall be included as Part X of the Notice of Trustee's Sale:

X. NOTICE TO OCCUPANTS OR TENANTS

The purchaser at the trustee's sale is entitled to possession of the property on the 20th day following the sale, as against the grantor under the deed of trust (the owner) and anyone having an interest junior to the deed of trust, including occupants who are not tenants. After the 20th day following the sale the purchaser has the right to evict occupants who are not tenants by summary proceedings under chapter 59.12 RCW. For tenant-occupied property, the purchaser shall provide a tenant with written notice in accordance with RCW 61.24.060;

(14) Only one copy of all notices required by this chapter need be given to a person who is both the borrower and the grantor. All notices required by this chapter that are given to a general partnership are deemed given to each of its general partners, unless otherwise agreed by the parties. [2023 c 206 § 3; 2018 c 306 § 2; 2012 c 185 § 10; 2009 c 292 § 9; 2008 c 153 § 3; 1998 c 295 § 5; 1989 c 361 § 1; 1987 c 352 § 3; 1985 c 193 § 4; 1981 c 161 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 129 § 4; 1967 c 30 § 1; 1965 c 74 § 4.]

Application—1985 c 193: See note following RCW 61.24.020.

RCW 61.24.042 Notice to guarantor—Contents—Failure to provide.

The beneficiary may give the notices of default, trustee's sale, and foreclosure referred to in RCW *61.24.030(7) and 61.24.040 to any one or more of the guarantors of a commercial loan at the time they are given to the grantor. In addition to the information contained in the notices provided to the grantor, these notices shall state that (1) the guarantor may be liable for a deficiency judgment to the extent the sale price obtained at the trustee's sale is less than the debt secured by the deed of trust; (2) the guarantor has the same rights to reinstate the debt, cure the default, or repay the debt as is given to the grantor in order to avoid the trustee's sale; (3) the guarantor will have no right to redeem the property after the trustee's sale; (4) subject to such longer periods as are provided in the Washington deed of trust act, chapter 61.24 RCW, any action brought to enforce a guaranty must be commenced within one year after the trustee's sale, or the last trustee's sale under any deed of trust granted to secure the same debt; and (5) in any action for a deficiency, the guarantor will have the right to establish the fair value of the property as of the date of the trustee's sale, less prior liens and encumbrances, and to limit its liability for a deficiency to the difference between the debt and the greater of such fair value or the sale price paid at the trustee's sale, plus interest and costs. The failure of the beneficiary to provide any guarantor the notice referred to in this section does not invalidate either the notices given to the borrower or the grantor, or the trustee's sale. [1998 c 295 § 6.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 61.24.030 was amended by 2009 c 292 § 8, changing subsection (7) to subsection (8).

RCW 61.24.045 Requests for notice of sale. Any person desiring a copy of any notice of sale described in RCW 61.24.040(2) under any deed of trust, other than a person entitled to receive such a notice

under RCW 61.24.040(1) (b) or (c), must, after the recordation of such deed of trust and before the recordation of the notice of sale, cause to be filed for record, in the office of the auditor of any county in which the deed of trust is recorded, a duly acknowledged request for a copy of any notice of sale. The request shall be signed and acknowledged by the person to be notified or such person's agent, attorney, or representative; shall set forth the name, mailing address, and telephone number, if any, of the person or persons to be notified; shall identify the deed of trust by stating the names of the parties thereto, the date the deed of trust was recorded, the legal description of the property encumbered by the deed of trust, and the auditor's file number under which the deed of trust is recorded; and shall be in substantially the following form:

REQUEST FOR NOTICE

Request is hereby made that a copy of any notice of sale described in RCW 61.24.040(2) under that certain Deed of Trust dated, (year), recorded on, (year), under auditor's file No., records of County, Washington, from, as Grantor, to, as Trustee, to secure an obligation in favor of, as Beneficiary, and affecting the following described real property:

(Legal Description)

be sent by both first-class and either registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to at Dated this day of, (year)

.....
Signature

(Acknowledgment)

A request for notice under this section shall not affect title to, or be deemed notice to any person that any person has any right, title, interest in, lien or charge upon, the property described in the request for notice. [2018 c 306 § 3; 2008 c 153 § 4; 1985 c 193 § 1.]

Application—1985 c 193: See note following RCW 61.24.020.

RCW 61.24.048 Foreclosure sale—Notice from homeowner assistance fund program. (Contingent expiration date.) (1)(a) The trustee shall continue a foreclosure sale for at least 30 days upon receipt of a written notice from the homeowner assistance fund program administered by the Washington state housing finance commission that an application has been submitted to the homeowner assistance fund program on behalf of the applicant.

(b) The trustee shall continue the foreclosure sale for an additional 30-day period upon receipt of a written notice from the homeowner assistance fund program that the applicant is deemed eligible for the program.

(c) An automated notice issued by the homeowner assistance fund program does not qualify as written notice required in this section.

(2)(a) If an application to the homeowner assistance fund program is approved in the amount that would cure the default and make the

beneficiary whole, a sale may not proceed while the approved application is pending for payment.

(b) A sale may proceed if the homeowner assistance fund program issues a written confirmation that an application has been denied or that no funds from the program will be paid in response to the application, and that any appeal process available to the applicant has been exhausted and is no longer pending.

(3) The trustee has no duty to delay a sale if the applicant has already received a continuance based on prior application to the homeowner assistance fund program, unless the applicant demonstrates to the trustee that a new application is pending based upon a substantial change in circumstances supporting a new application and that it has not been submitted solely for the purpose of delaying the sale.

(4) (a) The trustee must comply with the process set forth in RCW 61.24.040(1) for giving notice of the continued sale.

(b) A continuance of a sale pursuant to this section shall not be included in calculating the maximum sale continuance period of 120 days established in RCW 61.24.040(10).

(5) For purposes of this section, "applicant" means a person who:

(a) Is the borrower, a successor in interest to a deceased borrower, or a person who has been awarded title to the property; and
(b) Has submitted an application to the homeowner assistance fund program or on whose behalf an application to the program has been submitted. [2023 c 206 § 9.]

Contingent expiration date—Notice—2023 c 206 § 9: "(1) Section 9 of this act expires upon the expiration and permanent closure of the homeowner assistance fund program.

(2) The Washington state housing finance commission must provide written notice of the expiration date of section 9 of this act to the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, the office of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by the commission." [2023 c 206 § 12.]

Effective date—2023 c 206 §§ 7-9 and 12: See note following RCW 61.24.166.

RCW 61.24.050 Interest conveyed by trustee's deed—Sale is final if acceptance is properly recorded—Redemption precluded after sale—Rescission of trustee's sale. (1) Upon physical delivery of the trustee's deed to the purchaser, or a different grantee as designated by the purchaser following the trustee's sale, the trustee's deed shall convey all of the right, title, and interest in the real and personal property sold at the trustee's sale which the grantor had or had the power to convey at the time of the execution of the deed of trust, and such as the grantor may have thereafter acquired. Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, if the trustee accepts a bid, then the trustee's sale is final as of the date and time of such acceptance if the trustee's deed is recorded within fifteen days thereafter. After a trustee's sale, no person shall have any right, by statute or otherwise, to redeem the property sold at the trustee's sale.

(2) (a) Up to the eleventh day following the trustee's sale, the trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent for the beneficiary may

declare the trustee's sale and trustee's deed void for the following reasons:

(i) The trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent for the beneficiary assert that there was an error with the trustee foreclosure sale process including, but not limited to, an erroneous opening bid amount made by or on behalf of the foreclosing beneficiary at the trustee's sale;

(ii) The borrower and beneficiary, or authorized agent for the beneficiary, had agreed prior to the trustee's sale to a loan modification agreement, forbearance plan, shared appreciation mortgage, or other loss mitigation agreement to postpone or discontinue the trustee's sale; or

(iii) The beneficiary or authorized agent for the beneficiary had accepted funds that fully reinstated or satisfied the loan even if the beneficiary or authorized agent for the beneficiary had no legal duty to do so.

(b) This subsection does not impose a duty upon the trustee any different than the obligations set forth under RCW 61.24.010 (3) and (4).

(3) The trustee must refund the bid amount to the purchaser no later than the third day following the postmarked mailing of the rescission notice described under subsection (4) of this section.

(4) No later than fifteen days following the voided trustee's sale date, the trustee shall send a notice in substantially the following form by first-class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, to all parties entitled to notice under RCW 61.24.040(1) (b) through (e):

NOTICE OF RESCISSION OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the trustee's sale that occurred on (trustee's sale date) is rescinded and declared void because (insert the applicable reason(s) permitted under RCW 61.24.050(2)(a)).

The trustee's sale occurred pursuant to that certain Notice of Trustee's Sale dated, recorded, under Auditor's File No. . . ., records of County, Washington, and that certain Deed of Trust dated, recorded, under Auditor's File No. . . ., records of County, Washington, from, as Grantor, to, as, as original Beneficiary, concerning the following described property, situated in the County(ies) of, State of Washington, to wit:

(Legal description)

Commonly known as (common property address)

(5) If the reason for the rescission stems from subsection (2)(a)(i) or (ii) of this section, the trustee may set a new sale date not less than forty-five days following the mailing of the notice of rescission of trustee's sale. The trustee shall:

(a) Comply with the requirements of RCW 61.24.040(1) (a) through (e) at least thirty days before the new sale date; and

(b) Cause a copy of the notice of trustee's sale as provided in RCW 61.24.040(2) to be published in a legal newspaper in each county in which the property or any part of the property is situated, once between the thirty-fifth and twenty-eighth day before the sale and once between the fourteenth and seventh day before the sale. [2018 c 306 § 4; 2012 c 185 § 14; 1998 c 295 § 7; 1965 c 74 § 5.]

RCW 61.24.060 Rights and remedies of trustee's sale purchaser—

Written notice to occupants or tenants. (1) The purchaser at the trustee's sale shall be entitled to possession of the property on the twentieth day following the sale, as against the borrower and grantor under the deed of trust and anyone having an interest junior to the deed of trust, including occupants who are not tenants, who were given all of the notices to which they were entitled under this chapter. The purchaser shall also have a right to the summary proceedings to obtain possession of real property provided in chapter 59.12 RCW.

(2) If the trustee elected to foreclose the interest of any occupant or tenant, the purchaser of tenant-occupied property at the trustee's sale shall provide written notice to the occupants and tenants at the property purchased in substantially the following form:

"NOTICE: The property located at was purchased at a trustee's sale by on (date).

1. If you are the previous owner or an occupant who is not a tenant of the property that was purchased, pursuant to RCW 61.24.060, the purchaser at the trustee's sale is entitled to possession of the property on (date), which is the twentieth day following the sale.

2. If you are a tenant or subtenant in possession of the property that was purchased, pursuant to RCW 61.24.146, the purchaser at the trustee's sale may either give you a new rental agreement OR give you a written notice to vacate the property in sixty days or more before the end of the monthly rental period."

(3) The notice required in subsection (2) of this section must be given to the property's occupants and tenants by both first-class mail and either certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. [2009 c 292 § 10; 1998 c 295 § 8; 1967 c 30 § 2; 1965 c 74 § 6.]

RCW 61.24.070 Trustee's sale, who may bid at—If beneficiary is purchaser—If purchaser is not beneficiary. (1) The trustee may not bid at the trustee's sale. Any other person, including the beneficiary, may bid at the trustee's sale.

(2) The trustee shall, at the request of the beneficiary, credit toward the beneficiary's bid all or any part of the monetary obligations secured by the deed of trust. If the beneficiary is the purchaser, any amount bid by the beneficiary in excess of the amount so credited shall be paid to the trustee in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, money order, or funds received by verified electronic transfer, or any combination thereof. If the purchaser is not the beneficiary, the entire bid shall be paid to the trustee in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, money order, or funds received by verified electronic transfer, or any combination thereof. [1998 c 295 § 9; 1965 c 74 § 7.]

RCW 61.24.080 Disposition of proceeds of sale—Notices—Surplus funds. The trustee shall apply the proceeds of the sale as follows:

(1) To the expense of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee and by his or her attorney: PROVIDED, That the aggregate of the charges by the trustee and his or her attorney, for their services in the sale, shall not exceed the amount which would, by the superior court of the county in which the trustee's sale occurred, have been

deemed a reasonable attorney fee, had the trust deed been foreclosed as a mortgage in a noncontested action in that court;

(2) To the obligation secured by the deed of trust; and

(3) The surplus, if any, less the clerk's filing fee, shall be deposited, together with written notice of the amount of the surplus, a copy of the notice of trustee's sale, and an affidavit of mailing as provided in this subsection, with the clerk of the superior court of the county in which the sale took place. The trustee shall mail copies of the notice of the surplus, the notice of trustee's sale, and the affidavit of mailing to each party to whom the notice of trustee's sale was sent pursuant to RCW 61.24.040(1). The clerk shall index such funds under the name of the grantor as set out in the recorded notice. Upon compliance with this subsection, the trustee shall be discharged from all further responsibilities for the surplus. Interests in, or liens or claims of liens against the property eliminated by sale under this section shall attach to the surplus in the order of priority that it had attached to the property, as determined by the court. A party seeking disbursement of the surplus funds shall file a motion requesting disbursement in the superior court for the county in which the surplus funds are deposited. Notice of the motion shall be personally served upon, or mailed in the manner specified in RCW 61.24.040(1)(b), to all parties to whom the trustee mailed notice of the surplus, and any other party who has entered an appearance in the proceeding, not less than twenty days prior to the hearing of the motion. The clerk shall not disburse such surplus except upon order of the superior court of such county. [2014 c 107 § 2; 1998 c 295 § 10; 1981 c 161 § 5; 1967 c 30 § 3; 1965 c 74 § 8.]

RCW 61.24.090 Curing defaults before sale—Discontinuance of proceedings—Notice of discontinuance—Execution and acknowledgment—Payments tendered to trustee. (1) At any time prior to the eleventh day before the date set by the trustee for the sale in the recorded notice of sale, or in the event the trustee continues the sale pursuant to *RCW 61.24.040(6), at any time prior to the eleventh day before the actual sale, the borrower, grantor, any guarantor, any beneficiary under a subordinate deed of trust, or any person having a subordinate lien or encumbrance of record on the trust property or any part thereof, shall be entitled to cause a discontinuance of the sale proceedings by curing the default or defaults set forth in the notice, which in the case of a default by failure to pay, shall be by paying to the trustee:

(a) The entire amount then due under the terms of the deed of trust and the obligation secured thereby, other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred, and

(b) The expenses actually incurred by the trustee enforcing the terms of the note and deed of trust, including a reasonable trustee's fee, together with the trustee's reasonable attorney's fees, together with costs of recording the notice of discontinuance of notice of trustee's sale.

(2) Any person entitled to cause a discontinuance of the sale proceedings shall have the right, before or after reinstatement, to request any court, excluding a small claims court, for disputes within the jurisdictional limits of that court, to determine the reasonableness of any fees demanded or paid as a condition to reinstatement. The court shall make such determination as it deems

appropriate, which may include an award to the prevailing party of its costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, and render judgment accordingly. An action to determine fees shall not forestall any sale or affect its validity.

(3) Upon receipt of such payment the proceedings shall be discontinued, the deed of trust shall be reinstated and the obligation shall remain as though no acceleration had taken place.

(4) In the case of a default which is occasioned by other than failure to make payments, the person or persons causing the said default shall pay the expenses incurred by the trustee and the trustee's fees as set forth in subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(5) Any person having a subordinate lien of record on the trust property and who has cured the default or defaults pursuant to this section shall thereafter have included in his lien all payments made to cure any defaults, including interest thereon at eight percent per annum, payments made for trustees' costs and fees incurred as authorized, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred resulting from any judicial action commenced to enforce his or her rights to advances under this section.

(6) If the default is cured and the obligation and the deed of trust reinstated in the manner provided, the trustee shall properly execute, acknowledge, and cause to be recorded a notice of discontinuance of trustee's sale under that deed of trust. A notice of discontinuance of trustee's sale when so executed and acknowledged is entitled to be recorded and shall be sufficient if it sets forth a record of the deed of trust and the auditor's file number under which the deed of trust is recorded, and a reference to the notice of sale and the auditor's file number under which the notice of sale is recorded, and a notice that the sale is discontinued.

(7) Any payments required under this section as a condition precedent to reinstatement of the deed of trust shall be tendered to the trustee in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, money order, or funds received by verified electronic transfer, or any combination thereof. [1998 c 295 § 11; 1987 c 352 § 4; 1981 c 161 § 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 129 § 5; 1967 c 30 § 4; 1965 c 74 § 9.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 61.24.040 was amended by 2018 c 306 § 2, changing subsection (6) to subsection (10).

RCW 61.24.100 Deficiency judgments—Foreclosure—Trustee's sale—Application of chapter. (1) Except to the extent permitted in this section for deeds of trust securing commercial loans, a deficiency judgment shall not be obtained on the obligations secured by a deed of trust against any borrower, grantor, or guarantor after a trustee's sale under that deed of trust.

(2)(a) Nothing in this chapter precludes an action against any person liable on the obligations secured by a deed of trust or any guarantor prior to a notice of trustee's sale being given pursuant to this chapter or after the discontinuance of the trustee's sale.

(b) No action under (a) of this subsection precludes the beneficiary from commencing a judicial foreclosure or trustee's sale under the deed of trust after the completion or dismissal of that action.

(3) This chapter does not preclude any one or more of the following after a trustee's sale under a deed of trust securing a commercial loan executed after June 11, 1998:

(a)(i) To the extent the fair value of the property sold at the trustee's sale to the beneficiary or an affiliate of the beneficiary is less than the unpaid obligation secured by the deed of trust immediately prior to the trustee's sale, an action for a deficiency judgment against the borrower or grantor, if such person or persons was timely given the notices under RCW 61.24.040, for (A) any decrease in the fair value of the property caused by waste to the property committed by the borrower or grantor, respectively, after the deed of trust is granted, and (B) the wrongful retention of any rents, insurance proceeds, or condemnation awards by the borrower or grantor, respectively, that are otherwise owed to the beneficiary.

(ii) This subsection (3)(a) does not apply to any property that is occupied by the borrower as its principal residence as of the date of the trustee's sale;

(b) Any judicial or nonjudicial foreclosures of any other deeds of trust, mortgages, security agreements, or other security interests or liens covering any real or personal property granted to secure the obligation that was secured by the deed of trust foreclosed; or

(c) Subject to this section, an action for a deficiency judgment against a guarantor if the guarantor is timely given the notices under RCW 61.24.042.

(4) Any action referred to in subsection (3)(a) and (c) of this section shall be commenced within one year after the date of the trustee's sale, or a later date to which the liable party otherwise agrees in writing with the beneficiary after the notice of foreclosure is given, plus any period during which the action is prohibited by a bankruptcy, insolvency, moratorium, or other similar debtor protection statute. If there occurs more than one trustee's sale under a deed of trust securing a commercial loan or if trustee's sales are made pursuant to two or more deeds of trust securing the same commercial loan, the one-year limitation in this section begins on the date of the last of those trustee's sales.

(5) In any action against a guarantor following a trustee's sale under a deed of trust securing a commercial loan, the guarantor may request the court or other appropriate adjudicator to determine, or the court or other appropriate adjudicator may in its discretion determine, the fair value of the property sold at the sale and the deficiency judgment against the guarantor shall be for an amount equal to the sum of the total amount owed to the beneficiary by the guarantor as of the date of the trustee's sale, less the fair value of the property sold at the trustee's sale or the sale price paid at the trustee's sale, whichever is greater, plus interest on the amount of the deficiency from the date of the trustee's sale at the rate provided in the guaranty, the deed of trust, or in any other contracts evidencing the debt secured by the deed of trust, as applicable, and any costs, expenses, and fees that are provided for in any contract evidencing the guarantor's liability for such a judgment. If any other security is sold to satisfy the same debt prior to the entry of a deficiency judgment against the guarantor, the fair value of that security, as calculated in the manner applicable to the property sold at the trustee's sale, shall be added to the fair value of the property sold at the trustee's sale as of the date that additional security is foreclosed. This section is in lieu of any right any guarantor would otherwise have to establish an upset price pursuant to RCW 61.12.060 prior to a trustee's sale.

(6) A guarantor granting a deed of trust to secure its guaranty of a commercial loan shall be subject to a deficiency judgment

following a trustee's sale under that deed of trust only to the extent stated in subsection (3)(a)(i) of this section. If the deed of trust encumbers the guarantor's principal residence, the guarantor shall be entitled to receive an amount up to \$125,000, without regard to the effect of RCW 6.13.080(2), from the bid at the foreclosure or trustee's sale accepted by the sheriff or trustee prior to the application of the bid to the guarantor's obligation.

(7) A beneficiary's acceptance of a deed in lieu of a trustee's sale under a deed of trust securing a commercial loan exonerates the guarantor from any liability for the debt secured thereby except to the extent the guarantor otherwise agrees as part of the deed in lieu transaction.

(8) This chapter does not preclude a beneficiary from foreclosing a deed of trust in the same manner as a real property mortgage and this section does not apply to such a foreclosure.

(9) Any contract, note, deed of trust, or guaranty may, by its express language, prohibit the recovery of any portion or all of a deficiency after the property encumbered by the deed of trust securing a commercial loan is sold at a trustee's sale.

(10) A trustee's sale under a deed of trust securing a commercial loan does not preclude an action to collect or enforce any obligation of a borrower or guarantor if that obligation, or the substantial equivalent of that obligation, was not secured by the deed of trust.

(11) Unless the guarantor otherwise agrees, a trustee's sale shall not impair any right or agreement of a guarantor to be reimbursed by a borrower or grantor for a deficiency judgment against the guarantor.

(12) Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, the rights and obligations of any borrower, grantor, and guarantor following a trustee's sale under a deed of trust securing a commercial loan or any guaranty of such a loan executed prior to June 11, 1998, shall be determined in accordance with the laws existing prior to June 11, 1998. [2021 c 290 § 7; 1998 c 295 § 12; 1990 c 111 § 2; 1965 c 74 § 10.]

Findings—Effective date—2021 c 290: See notes following RCW 6.13.010.

RCW 61.24.110 Reconveyance by trustee. (1) The trustee of record shall reconvey all or any part of the property encumbered by the deed of trust to the person entitled thereto on written request of the beneficiary, or upon satisfaction of the obligation secured and written request for reconveyance made by the beneficiary or the person entitled thereto.

(2) If the beneficiary fails to request reconveyance within the sixty-day period specified under RCW 61.16.030 and has received payment as specified by the beneficiary's demand statement, a title insurance company or title insurance agent as licensed and qualified under chapter 48.29 RCW, a licensed escrow agent as defined in RCW 18.44.011, or an attorney admitted to practice law in this state, who has paid the demand in full from escrow, upon receipt of notice of the beneficiary's failure to request reconveyance, may, as agent for the person entitled to receive reconveyance, in writing, submit proof of satisfaction and request the trustee of record to reconvey the deed of trust.

(3) (a) If the trustee of record is unable or unwilling to reconvey the deed of trust within one hundred twenty days following payment to the beneficiary as prescribed in the beneficiary's demand statement, a title insurance company or title insurance agent as licensed and qualified under chapter 48.29 RCW, a licensed escrow agent as defined in RCW 18.44.011, or an attorney admitted to practice law in this state may record with each county auditor where the original deed of trust was recorded a notarized declaration of payment. The notarized declaration must: (i) Identify the deed of trust, including original grantor, beneficiary, trustee, loan number if available, and the auditor's recording number and recording date; (ii) state the amount, date, and name of the beneficiary and means of payment; (iii) include a declaration that the payment tendered was sufficient to meet the beneficiary's demand and that no written objections have been received; and (iv) be titled "declaration of payment."

(b) A copy of the recorded declaration of payment must be sent by certified mail to the last known address of the beneficiary and the trustee of record not later than two business days following the date of recording of the notarized declaration. The beneficiary or trustee of record has sixty days from the date of recording of the notarized declaration to record an objection. The objection must: (i) Include reference to the recording number of the declaration and original deed of trust, in the records where the notarized declaration was recorded; and (ii) be titled "objection to declaration of payment." If no objection is recorded within sixty days following recording of the notarized declaration, any lien of the deed of trust against the real property encumbered must cease to exist. [2013 c 114 § 1; 1998 c 295 § 13; 1981 c 161 § 7; 1965 c 74 § 11.]

RCW 61.24.120 Other foreclosure provisions preserved. This chapter shall not supersede nor repeal any other provision now made by law for the foreclosure of security interests in real property. [1965 c 74 § 12.]

RCW 61.24.127 Failure to bring civil action to enjoin foreclosure—Not a waiver of claims. (1) The failure of the borrower or grantor to bring a civil action to enjoin a foreclosure sale under this chapter may not be deemed a waiver of a claim for damages asserting:

- (a) Common law fraud or misrepresentation;
- (b) A violation of Title 19 RCW;
- (c) Failure of the trustee to materially comply with the provisions of this chapter; or
- (d) A violation of RCW 61.24.026.

(2) The nonwaived claims listed under subsection (1) of this section are subject to the following limitations:

(a) The claim must be asserted or brought within two years from the date of the foreclosure sale or within the applicable statute of limitations for such claim, whichever expires earlier;

(b) The claim may not seek any remedy at law or in equity other than monetary damages;

(c) The claim may not affect in any way the validity or finality of the foreclosure sale or a subsequent transfer of the property;

(d) A borrower or grantor who files such a claim is prohibited from recording a lis pendens or any other document purporting to create a similar effect, related to the real property foreclosed upon;

(e) The claim may not operate in any way to encumber or cloud the title to the property that was subject to the foreclosure sale, except to the extent that a judgment on the claim in favor of the borrower or grantor may, consistent with RCW 4.56.190, become a judgment lien on real property then owned by the judgment debtor; and

(f) The relief that may be granted for judgment upon the claim is limited to actual damages. However, if the borrower or grantor brings in the same civil action a claim for violation of chapter 19.86 RCW, arising out of the same alleged facts, relief under chapter 19.86 RCW is limited to actual damages, treble damages as provided for in RCW 19.86.090, and the costs of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee.

(3) This section applies only to foreclosures of owner-occupied residential real property.

(4) This section does not apply to the foreclosure of a deed of trust used to secure a commercial loan. [2011 c 364 § 2; 2009 c 292 § 6.]

RCW 61.24.130 Restraint of sale by trustee—Conditions—Notice.

(1) Nothing contained in this chapter shall prejudice the right of the borrower, grantor, any guarantor, or any person who has an interest in, lien, or claim of lien against the property or some part thereof, to restrain, on any proper legal or equitable ground, a trustee's sale. The court shall require as a condition of granting the restraining order or injunction that the applicant pay to the clerk of the court the sums that would be due on the obligation secured by the deed of trust if the deed of trust was not being foreclosed:

(a) In the case of default in making the periodic payment of principal, interest, and reserves, such sums shall be the periodic payment of principal, interest, and reserves paid to the clerk of the court every thirty days.

(b) In the case of default in making payment of an obligation then fully payable by its terms, such sums shall be the amount of interest accruing monthly on said obligation at the nondefault rate, paid to the clerk of the court every thirty days.

In the case of default in performance of any nonmonetary obligation secured by the deed of trust, the court shall impose such conditions as it deems just.

In addition, the court may condition granting the restraining order or injunction upon the giving of security by the applicant, in such form and amount as the court deems proper, for the payment of such costs and damages, including attorneys' fees, as may be later found by the court to have been incurred or suffered by any party by reason of the restraining order or injunction. The court may consider, upon proper showing, the grantor's equity in the property in determining the amount of said security.

(2) No court may grant a restraining order or injunction to restrain a trustee's sale unless the person seeking the restraint gives five days notice to the trustee of the time when, place where, and the judge before whom the application for the restraining order or injunction is to be made. This notice shall include copies of all pleadings and related documents to be given to the judge. No judge may

act upon such application unless it is accompanied by proof, evidenced by return of a sheriff, the sheriff's deputy, or by any person eighteen years of age or over who is competent to be a witness, that the notice has been served on the trustee.

(3) If the restraining order or injunction is dissolved after the date of the trustee's sale set forth in the notice as provided in RCW 61.24.040(2), the court granting such restraining order or injunction, or before whom the order or injunction is returnable, shall, at the request of the trustee, set a new sale date which shall be not less than forty-five days from the date of the order dissolving the restraining order. The trustee shall:

(a) Comply with the requirements of RCW 61.24.040(1) (a) through (e) at least thirty days before the new sale date; and

(b) Cause a copy of the notice of trustee's sale as provided in RCW 61.24.040(2) to be published in a legal newspaper in each county in which the property or any part thereof is situated once between the thirty-fifth and twenty-eighth day before the sale and once between the fourteenth and seventh day before the sale.

(4) If a trustee's sale has been stayed as a result of the filing of a petition in federal bankruptcy court and an order is entered in federal bankruptcy court granting relief from the stay or closing or dismissing the case, or discharging the debtor with the effect of removing the stay, the trustee may set a new sale date which shall not be less than forty-five days after the date of the bankruptcy court's order. The trustee shall:

(a) Comply with the requirements of RCW 61.24.040(1) (a) through (e) at least thirty days before the new sale date; and

(b) Cause a copy of the notice of trustee's sale as provided in RCW 61.24.040(2) to be published in a legal newspaper in each county in which the property or any part thereof is situated, once between the thirty-fifth and twenty-eighth day before the sale and once between the fourteenth and seventh day before the sale.

(5) Subsections (3) and (4) of this section are permissive only and do not prohibit the trustee from proceeding with a trustee's sale following termination of any injunction or stay on any date to which such sale has been properly continued in accordance with RCW 61.24.040(10).

(6) The issuance of a restraining order or injunction shall not prohibit the trustee from continuing the sale as provided in RCW 61.24.040(10). [2018 c 306 § 5; 2008 c 153 § 5; 1998 c 295 § 14; 1987 c 352 § 5; 1981 c 161 § 8; 1975 1st ex.s. c 129 § 6; 1965 c 74 § 13.]

RCW 61.24.135 Consumer protection act—Unfair or deceptive acts or practices—Penalties—Notice. (1) It is an unfair or deceptive act or practice under the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW, for any person, acting alone or in concert with others, to offer, or offer to accept or accept from another, any consideration of any type not to bid, or to reduce a bid, at a sale of property conducted pursuant to a power of sale in a deed of trust. The trustee may decline to complete a sale or deliver the trustee's deed and refund the purchase price, if it appears that the bidding has been collusive or defective, or that the sale might have been void. However, it is not an unfair or deceptive act or practice for any person, including a trustee, to state that a property subject to a recorded notice of trustee's sale or subject to a sale conducted pursuant to this chapter is being sold

in an "as-is" condition, or for the beneficiary to arrange to provide financing for a particular bidder or to reach any good faith agreement with the borrower, grantor, any guarantor, or any junior lienholder.

(2) It is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of competition in violation of the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW, for any person or entity to: (a) Violate the duty of good faith under RCW 61.24.163; (b) fail to comply with the requirements of RCW *61.24.174, as it existed prior to July 1, 2016, **61.24.173, or 61.24.190; or (c) fail to initiate contact with a borrower and exercise due diligence as required under RCW 61.24.031.

(3) (a) It is unlawful for any person to seek or receive from any person or contract with any person for any fee or compensation for locating, or purporting to purchase or otherwise acquire the right to recover, funds held by a court or county that are proceeds from a foreclosure under this chapter and subject to disposition under RCW 61.24.080 in excess of:

(i) Five percent of the value thereof returned to such owner; and

(ii) Reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, upon a motion and a hearing by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(b) Any person who violates (a) of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than the amount of the fee or charge he or she has sought or received or contracted for, and not more than 10 times such amount, or imprisoned for not more than 30 days, or both.

(c) The legislature finds that the practices covered by (a) of this subsection are matters vitally affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. Any violation of (a) of this subsection is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business and is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. Remedies provided by chapter 19.86 RCW are cumulative and not exclusive.

(4) Every contract for any fee or compensation for locating or purporting to purchase the right to recover funds held by a court that are proceeds from a foreclosure under this chapter and subject to disposition under RCW 61.24.080 must contain the following notice in 10-point boldface type or larger directly above the space reserved in the contract for the signature of the buyer:

"NOTICE TO HOMEOWNER:

(1) Do not sign this contract before you read it or if any spaces intended for the agreed terms are left blank.

(2) You are entitled to a copy of this contract at the time you sign it.

(3) You may cancel this contract within 10 days of signing by sending notice of cancellation by regular United States mail to the other party at his or her address shown on the contract, which notice shall be posted not later than midnight of the 10th day (excluding Sundays and holidays) following your signing of the contract." [2023 c 206 § 11; 2021 c 151 § 5; 2016 c 196 § 3; 2011 c 58 § 14; 2008 c 153 § 6; 1998 c 295 § 15.]

Reviser's note: *(1) RCW 61.24.174 was repealed by 2016 c 196 § 4.

** (2) RCW 61.24.173 was repealed by 2021 c 151 § 13, effective June 30, 2023.

Effective date—2021 c 151 §§ 5, 9, 11, and 12: "Sections 5, 9, 11, and 12 of this act take effect January 1, 2022." [2021 c 151 § 16.]

Findings—Intent—2021 c 151: See note following RCW 61.24.005.

Effective date—2016 c 196: See note following RCW 61.24.172.

Findings—Intent—Short title—2011 c 58: See notes following RCW 61.24.005.

RCW 61.24.140 Assignment of rents—Collecting payment of rent.

The beneficiary shall not enforce or attempt to enforce an assignment of rents by demanding or collecting rent from a tenant occupying property consisting solely of a single-family residence, or a condominium, cooperative, or other dwelling unit in a multiplex or other building containing fewer than five residential units, without first giving the tenant either a court order authorizing payment of rent to the beneficiary or a written consent by the tenant's landlord to the payment. It is a defense to an eviction based on nonpayment of rent that the tenant paid the rent due to the beneficiary pursuant to a court order or a landlord's written consent. [1998 c 295 § 16.]

RCW 61.24.143 Foreclosure of tenant-occupied property—Notice of trustee's sale. If the trustee elects to foreclose the interest of any occupant of tenant-occupied property, upon posting a notice of trustee's sale under RCW 61.24.040, the trustee or its authorized agent shall post in the manner required under RCW 61.24.040(1)(e) and shall mail at the same time in an envelope addressed to the "Resident of property subject to foreclosure sale" the following notice:

"The foreclosure process has begun on this property, which may affect your right to continue to live in this property. Ninety days or more after the date of this notice, this property may be sold at foreclosure. If you are renting this property, the new property owner may either give you a new rental agreement or provide you with a sixty-day notice to vacate the property. You may wish to contact a lawyer or your local legal aid or housing counseling agency to discuss any rights that you may have." [2009 c 292 § 3.]

Application of section—2009 c 292 §§ 3 and 4: "RCW 61.24.143 and 61.24.146 apply only to the foreclosure of tenant-occupied property." [2009 c 292 § 5.]

RCW 61.24.146 Foreclosure of tenant-occupied property—Notice to vacate. (1) A tenant or subtenant in possession of a residential real property at the time the property is sold in foreclosure must be given sixty days' written notice to vacate before the tenant or subtenant may be removed from the property as prescribed in chapter 59.12 RCW. Notwithstanding the notice requirement in this subsection, a tenant may be evicted for waste or nuisance in an unlawful detainer action under chapter 59.12 RCW.

(2) This section does not prohibit the new owner of a property purchased pursuant to a trustee's sale from negotiating a new purchase or rental agreement with a tenant or subtenant.

(3) This section does not apply if the borrower or grantor remains on the property as a tenant, subtenant, or occupant. [2009 c 292 § 4.]

Application of section—2009 c 292 §§ 3 and 4: See note following RCW 61.24.143.

RCW 61.24.160 Housing counselors—Good faith duty to attempt resolution—Resolution described—Mediation—Liability for civil damages—Annual report. (1) (a) A housing counselor who is contacted by a borrower under RCW 61.24.031 has a duty to act in good faith to attempt to reach a resolution with the beneficiary on behalf of the borrower within the 90 days provided from the date the beneficiary initiates contact with the borrower and the date the notice of default is issued. A resolution may include, but is not limited to, modification of the loan, an agreement to conduct a short sale, a deed in lieu of foreclosure transaction, or some other workout plan.

(b) Nothing in RCW 61.24.031 or this section precludes a meeting or negotiations between the housing counselor, borrower, and beneficiary at any time, including after the issuance of the notice of default.

(c) A borrower who is contacted under RCW 61.24.031 may seek the assistance of a housing counselor or attorney at any time.

(2) Housing counselors have a duty to act in good faith to assist borrowers by:

(a) Preparing the borrower for meetings with the beneficiary;

(b) Advising the borrower about what documents the borrower must have to seek a loan modification or other resolution;

(c) Informing the borrower about the alternatives to foreclosure, including loan modifications or other possible resolutions; and

(d) Providing other guidance, advice, and education as the housing counselor considers necessary.

(3) A housing counselor or attorney assisting a borrower may refer the borrower to mediation, pursuant to RCW 61.24.163, if the housing counselor or attorney determines that mediation is appropriate based on the individual circumstances and the borrower has received a notice of default. The referral to mediation may be made any time after a notice of default has been issued but no later than 90 days prior to the date of sale listed in the notice of trustee's sale. If an amended notice of trustee's sale is recorded after the trustee sale has been stayed pursuant to RCW 61.24.130, the borrower may be referred to mediation no later than 25 days prior to the date of sale listed in the amended notice of trustee's sale.

(4) For borrowers who have received a letter under RCW 61.24.031 before June 7, 2012, a referral to mediation by a housing counselor or attorney does not preclude a trustee issuing a notice of default if the requirements of RCW 61.24.031 have been met.

(5) Housing counselors providing assistance to borrowers under RCW 61.24.031 are not liable for civil damages resulting from any acts or omissions in providing assistance, unless the acts or omissions constitute gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(6) Housing counselors shall provide information to the department to assist the department in its annual report to the legislature as required under RCW 61.24.163(18). The information provided to the department by the housing counselors should include outcomes of foreclosures and be similar to the information requested in the national foreclosure mortgage counseling client level foreclosure outcomes report form. [2023 c 206 § 4; 2012 c 185 § 5; 2011 c 58 § 6.]

Findings—Intent—Short title—2011 c 58: See notes following RCW 61.24.005.

RCW 61.24.163 Foreclosure mediation program—Timelines—Procedures—Duties and responsibilities of mediator, borrower, and beneficiary—Fees—Annual report. (1) The foreclosure mediation program established in this section applies only to borrowers who have been referred to mediation by a housing counselor or attorney. The referral to mediation may be made any time after a notice of default has been issued but no later than 90 days prior to the date of sale listed in the notice of trustee's sale. If an amended notice of trustee's sale is recorded after the trustee sale has been stayed pursuant to RCW 61.24.130, the borrower may be referred to mediation no later than 25 days prior to the date of sale listed in the amended notice of trustee's sale. If the borrower has failed to elect to mediate within the applicable time frame, the borrower and the beneficiary may, but are under no duty to, agree in writing to enter the foreclosure mediation program. The mediation program under this section is not governed by chapter 7.07 RCW and does not preclude mediation required by a court or other provision of law.

(2) A housing counselor or attorney referring a borrower to mediation shall send a notice to the borrower and the department, stating that mediation is appropriate.

(3) Within 10 days of receiving the notice, the department shall:

(a) Send a notice to the beneficiary, the borrower, the housing counselor or attorney who referred the borrower, and the trustee stating that the parties have been referred to mediation. The notice must include the statements and list of documents and information described in subsections (4) and (5) of this section and a statement explaining each party's responsibility to pay the mediator's fee; and

(b) Select a mediator and notify the parties of the selection.

(4) Within 23 days of the department's notice that the parties have been referred to mediation, the borrower shall transmit the documents required for mediation to the mediator and the beneficiary. The required documents include an initial homeowner financial information worksheet as required by the department. The worksheet must include, at a minimum, the following information:

(a) The borrower's current and future income;

(b) Debts and obligations;

(c) Assets;

(d) Expenses;

(e) Tax returns for the previous two years;

(f) Hardship information;

(g) Other applicable information commonly required by any applicable federal mortgage relief program.

(5) Within 20 days of the beneficiary's receipt of the borrower's documents, the beneficiary shall transmit the documents required for mediation to the mediator and the borrower. The required documents include:

(a) An accurate statement containing the balance of the loan within 30 days of the date on which the beneficiary's documents are due to the parties;

(b) Copies of the note and deed of trust;

(c) Proof that the entity claiming to be the beneficiary is the owner of any promissory note or obligation secured by the deed of trust. Sufficient proof may be a copy of the declaration described in RCW 61.24.030(7)(a);

(d) The best estimate of any arrearage and an itemized statement of the arrearages;

(e) An itemized list of the best estimate of fees and charges outstanding;

(f) The payment history and schedule for the preceding twelve months, or since default, whichever is longer, including a breakdown of all fees and charges claimed;

(g) All borrower-related and mortgage-related input data used in any net present values analysis. If no net present values analysis is required by the applicable federal mortgage relief program, then the input data required under the federal deposit insurance corporation and published in the federal deposit insurance corporation loan modification program guide, or if that calculation becomes unavailable, substantially similar input data as determined by the department;

(h) An explanation regarding any denial for a loan modification, forbearance, or other alternative to foreclosure in sufficient detail for a reasonable person to understand why the decision was made;

(i) Appraisal or other broker price opinion most recently relied upon by the beneficiary not more than 90 days old at the time of the scheduled mediation; and

(j) The portion or excerpt of the pooling and servicing agreement or other investor restriction that prohibits the beneficiary from implementing a modification, if the beneficiary claims it cannot implement a modification due to limitations in a pooling and servicing agreement or other investor restriction, and documentation or a statement detailing the efforts of the beneficiary to obtain a waiver of the pooling and servicing agreement or other investor restriction provisions.

(6) Within 70 days of receiving the referral from the department, the mediator shall convene a mediation session in the county where the property is located, unless the parties agree on another location. The parties may agree to extend the time in which to schedule the mediation session. If the parties agree to extend the time, the beneficiary shall notify the trustee of the extension and the date the mediator is expected to issue the mediator's certification.

(7)(a) The mediator may schedule phone conferences, consultations with the parties individually, and other communications to ensure that the parties have all the necessary information and documents to engage in a productive mediation.

(b) The mediator must send written notice of the time, date, and location of the mediation session to the borrower, the beneficiary, and the department at least 30 days prior to the mediation session. At a minimum, the notice must contain:

(i) A statement that the borrower may be represented in the mediation session by an attorney or other advocate;

(ii) A statement that a person with authority to agree to a resolution, including a proposed settlement, loan modification, or dismissal or continuation of the foreclosure proceeding, must be present either in person or on the telephone or videoconference during the mediation session; and

(iii) A statement that the parties have a duty to mediate in good faith and that failure to mediate in good faith may impair the beneficiary's ability to foreclose on the property or the borrower's ability to modify the loan or take advantage of other alternatives to foreclosure.

(8) (a) The borrower, the beneficiary or authorized agent, and the mediator must meet in person for the mediation session. However, a person with authority to agree to a resolution on behalf of the beneficiary may be present over the telephone or videoconference during the mediation session.

(b) After the mediation session commences, the mediator may continue the mediation session once, and any further continuances must be with the consent of the parties.

(9) The participants in mediation must address the issues of foreclosure that may enable the borrower and the beneficiary to reach a resolution, including but not limited to reinstatement, modification of the loan, restructuring of the debt, or some other workout plan. To assist the parties in addressing issues of foreclosure, the mediator may require the participants to consider the following:

(a) The borrower's current and future economic circumstances, including the borrower's current and future income, debts, and obligations for the previous 60 days or greater time period as determined by the mediator;

(b) The net present value of receiving payments pursuant to a modified mortgage loan as compared to the anticipated net recovery following foreclosure;

(c) Any affordable loan modification calculation and net present value calculation when required under any federal mortgage relief program and any modification program related to loans insured by the federal housing administration, the veterans administration, and the rural housing service. If such a calculation is not provided or required, then the beneficiary must provide the net present value data inputs established by the federal deposit insurance corporation and published in the federal deposit insurance corporation loan modification program guide or other net present value data inputs as designated by the department. The mediator may run the calculation in order for a productive mediation to occur and to comply with the mediator certification requirement; and

(d) Any other loss mitigation guidelines to loans insured by the federal housing administration, the veterans administration, and the rural housing service, if applicable.

(10) A violation of the duty to mediate in good faith as required under this section may include:

(a) Failure to timely participate in mediation without good cause;

(b) Failure of the borrower or the beneficiary to provide the documentation required before mediation or pursuant to the mediator's instructions;

(c) Failure of a party to designate representatives with adequate authority to fully settle, compromise, or otherwise reach resolution with the borrower in mediation; and

(d) A request by a beneficiary that the borrower waive future claims he or she may have in connection with the deed of trust, as a condition of agreeing to a modification, except for rescission claims under the federal truth in lending act. Nothing in this section precludes a beneficiary from requesting that a borrower dismiss with prejudice any pending claims against the beneficiary, its agents, loan servicer, or trustee, arising from the underlying deed of trust, as a condition of modification.

(11) If the mediator reasonably believes a borrower will not attend a mediation session based on the borrower's conduct, such as the lack of response to the mediator's communications, the mediator may cancel a scheduled mediation session and send a written cancellation to the department and the trustee and send copies to the parties. The beneficiary may proceed with the foreclosure after receipt of the mediator's written confirmation of cancellation.

(12) Within seven business days after the conclusion of the mediation session, the mediator must send a written certification to the department and the trustee and send copies to the parties of:

(a) The date, time, and location of the mediation session;

(b) The names of all persons attending in person and by telephone or videoconference, at the mediation session;

(c) Whether a resolution was reached by the parties, including whether the default was cured by reinstatement, modification, or restructuring of the debt, or some other alternative to foreclosure was agreed upon by the parties;

(d) Whether the parties participated in the mediation in good faith; and

(e) If a written agreement was not reached, a description of any net present value test used, along with a copy of the inputs, including the result of any net present value test expressed in a dollar amount.

(13) If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the beneficiary may proceed with the foreclosure after receipt of the mediator's written certification.

(14) (a) The mediator's certification that the beneficiary failed to act in good faith in mediation constitutes a defense to the nonjudicial foreclosure action that was the basis for initiating the mediation. In any action to enjoin the foreclosure, the beneficiary is entitled to rebut the allegation that it failed to act in good faith.

(b) The mediator's certification that the beneficiary failed to act in good faith during mediation does not constitute a defense to a judicial foreclosure or a future nonjudicial foreclosure action if a modification of the loan is agreed upon and the borrower subsequently defaults.

(c) If an affordable loan modification is not offered in the mediation or a written agreement was not reached and the mediator's certification shows that the net present value of the modified loan exceeds the anticipated net recovery at foreclosure, that showing in the certification constitutes a basis for the borrower to enjoin the foreclosure.

(15) The mediator's certification that the borrower failed to act in good faith in mediation authorizes the beneficiary to proceed with the foreclosure.

(16) (a) If a borrower has been referred to mediation before a notice of trustee sale has been recorded, a trustee may not record the notice of sale until the trustee receives the mediator's certification stating that the mediation has been completed. If the trustee does not receive the mediator's certification, the trustee may record the notice of sale after 10 days from the date the certification to the trustee was due. If, after a notice of sale is recorded under this subsection (16) (a), the mediator subsequently issues a certification finding that the beneficiary violated the duty of good faith, the certification constitutes a basis for the borrower to enjoin the foreclosure.

(b) If a borrower has been referred to mediation after the notice of sale was recorded, the sale may not occur until the trustee receives the mediator's certification stating that the mediation has been completed.

(17) A mediator may charge reasonable fees as authorized by this subsection or as authorized by the department. Unless the fee is waived, the parties agree otherwise, or the department otherwise authorizes, a foreclosure mediator's fee may not exceed \$400 for preparing, scheduling, and conducting a mediation session lasting between one hour and three hours. For a mediation session exceeding three hours, the foreclosure mediator may charge a reasonable fee, as authorized by the department. The mediator must provide an estimated fee before the mediation, and payment of the mediator's fee must be divided equally between the beneficiary and the borrower. The beneficiary and the borrower must tender the loan mediator's fee within 30 calendar days from receipt of the department's letter referring the parties to mediation or pursuant to the mediator's instructions.

(18) Beginning December 1, 2012, and every year thereafter, the department shall report annually to the legislature on:

(a) The performance of the program, including the numbers of borrowers who are referred to mediation by a housing counselor or attorney;

(b) The results of the mediation program, including the number of mediations requested by housing counselors and attorneys, the number of certifications of good faith issued, the number of borrowers and beneficiaries who failed to mediate in good faith, and the reasons for the failure to mediate in good faith, if known, the numbers of loans restructured or modified, the change in the borrower's monthly payment for principal and interest and the number of principal write-downs and interest rate reductions, and, to the extent practical, the number of borrowers who report a default within a year of restructuring or modification;

(c) The information received by housing counselors regarding outcomes of foreclosures; and

(d) Any recommendations for changes to the statutes regarding the mediation program.

(19) This section does not apply to certain federally insured depository institutions, as specified in RCW 61.24.166. [2023 c 206 § 5; 2018 c 306 § 6; 2014 c 164 § 3; 2012 c 185 § 6; 2011 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 1; 2011 c 58 § 7.]

Effective date—2011 2nd sp.s. c 4: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions,

and takes effect immediately [December 20, 2011]." [2011 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 3.]

Findings—Intent—Short title—2011 c 58: See notes following RCW 61.24.005.

RCW 61.24.165 Application of RCW 61.24.163. (1) RCW 61.24.163 applies only to deeds of trust that are recorded against residential real property of up to four units.

(2) RCW 61.24.163 does not apply to deeds of trust:

(a) Securing a commercial loan;

(b) Securing obligations of a grantor who is not the borrower or a guarantor;

(c) Securing a purchaser's obligations under a seller-financed sale; or

(d) Where the grantor is a partnership, corporation, or limited liability company, or where the property is vested in a partnership, corporation, or limited liability company at the time the notice of default is issued.

(3) RCW 61.24.163 does not apply to association beneficiaries subject to chapter 64.32, 64.34, or 64.38 RCW.

(4) For purposes of referral and mediation under RCW 61.24.163, a person may be referred to mediation if the borrower is deceased and the person is a successor in interest of the deceased borrower. The referring counselor or attorney must determine a person's eligibility under this section and indicate the grounds for eligibility on the referral to mediation submitted to the department. For the purposes of mediation under RCW 61.24.163, the person must be treated as a "borrower." This subsection does not impose an affirmative duty on the beneficiary to accept an assumption of the loan.

(5) For purposes of referral and mediation under RCW 61.24.163, a person may be referred to mediation if the person has been awarded title to the property in a proceeding for dissolution or legal separation. The referring counselor or attorney must determine the person's eligibility under this section and indicate the grounds for eligibility on the referral to mediation submitted to the department. For the purposes of mediation under RCW 61.24.163, the person must be treated as a "borrower." This subsection does not impose an affirmative duty on the beneficiary to accept an assumption of the loan. [2023 c 206 § 6; 2021 c 151 § 6; 2014 c 164 § 4; 2011 c 58 § 8.]

Effective date—2021 c 151 §§ 1-4, 6-8, and 10: See note following RCW 61.24.005.

Findings—Intent—2021 c 151: See note following RCW 61.24.005.

Findings—Intent—Short title—2011 c 58: See notes following RCW 61.24.005.

RCW 61.24.166 Application of RCW 61.24.163 to federally insured depository institutions—Annual application for exemption. (1) Beginning on January 1, 2024, the provisions of RCW 61.24.163 do not apply to any federally insured depository institution, as defined in

12 U.S.C. Sec. 461(b)(1)(A), that certifies to the department under penalty of perjury that it was not a beneficiary of deeds of trust in more than 250 trustee sales of residential real property of up to four units that occurred in this state during the preceding calendar year. A federally insured depository institution certifying that RCW 61.24.163 does not apply must do so annually, beginning no later than January 31, 2024, and no later than January 31st of each year thereafter.

(2) During the 2023 calendar year, the provisions of RCW 61.24.163 do not apply to any federally insured depository institution, as defined in 12 U.S.C. Sec. 461(b)(1)(A), that certifies to the department under penalty of perjury that it was not a beneficiary of deeds of trust in more than 250 trustee sales of owner-occupied residential real property that occurred in this state during 2019. A federally insured depository institution certifying that RCW 61.24.163 does not apply pursuant to this subsection must do so no later than 30 days after May 1, 2023.

(3) This section applies retroactively to January 1, 2023, and prospectively beginning with May 1, 2023. [2023 c 206 § 7; 2021 c 151 § 7; 2011 c 58 § 9.]

Effective date—2023 c 206 §§ 7-9 and 12: "Sections 7 through 9 and 12 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect immediately [May 1, 2023]." [2023 c 206 § 13.]

Effective date—2021 c 151 §§ 1-4, 6-8, and 10: See note following RCW 61.24.005.

Findings—Intent—2021 c 151: See note following RCW 61.24.005.

Findings—Intent—Short title—2011 c 58: See notes following RCW 61.24.005.

RCW 61.24.169 Department maintains list of approved foreclosure mediators—Training program—Mediator involvement in civil action. (1) For the purposes of RCW 61.24.163, the department must maintain a list of approved foreclosure mediators. The department may approve the following persons to serve as foreclosure mediators under this section if the person has completed ten mediations and either a forty-hour mediation course and sixty hours of mediating or has two hundred hours experience mediating:

(a) Attorneys who are active members of the Washington state bar association;

(b) Employees of United States department of housing and urban development-approved housing counseling agencies or approved by the Washington state housing finance commission;

(c) Employees or volunteers of dispute resolution centers under chapter 7.75 RCW;

(d) Retired judges of Washington courts; and

(e) Other experienced mediators.

(2) The department may establish a required training program for foreclosure mediators and may require mediators to acquire training before being approved. The mediators must be familiar with relevant

aspects of the law, have knowledge of community-based resources and mortgage assistance programs, and refer borrowers to these programs where appropriate.

(3) The department may remove any mediator from the approved list of mediators.

(4) (a) A mediator under this section is immune from suit in any civil action based on any proceedings or other official acts performed in his or her capacity as a foreclosure mediator, except in cases of willful or wanton misconduct.

(b) A mediator is not subject to discovery or compulsory process to testify in any litigation pertaining to a foreclosure action between the parties. However, the mediator's certification and all information and material presented as part of the mediation process may be deemed admissible evidence, subject to court rules, in any litigation pertaining to a foreclosure action between the parties. [2012 c 185 § 7; 2011 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 2; 2011 c 58 § 10.]

Effective date—2011 2nd sp.s. c 4: See note following RCW 61.24.163.

Findings—Intent—Short title—2011 c 58: See notes following RCW 61.24.005.

RCW 61.24.172 Foreclosure fairness account created—Uses. The foreclosure fairness account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts received under RCW *61.24.174, as it existed prior to July 1, 2016, **61.24.173, and 61.24.190 must be deposited into the account. Only the director of the department of commerce or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. Funding to agencies and organizations under this section must be provided by the department through an interagency agreement or other applicable contract instrument. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. Biennial expenditures from the account must be used as follows: Four hundred thousand dollars to fund the counselor referral hotline. The remaining funds shall be distributed as follows: (1) Sixty-nine percent for the purposes of providing housing counseling activities to benefit borrowers; (2) eight percent to the office of the attorney general to be used by the consumer protection division to enforce this chapter; (3) six percent to the office of civil legal aid to be used for the purpose of contracting with qualified legal aid programs for legal representation of homeowners in matters relating to foreclosure. Funds provided under this subsection (3) must be used to supplement, not supplant, other federal, state, and local funds; and (4) seventeen percent to the department to be used for implementation and operation of the foreclosure fairness act.

The department shall enter into interagency agreements to contract with the Washington state housing finance commission and other appropriate entities to implement the foreclosure fairness act. [2021 c 151 § 9; 2016 c 196 § 1; 2015 3rd sp.s. c 4 § 965; 2014 c 164 § 5; 2012 c 185 § 12; 2011 c 58 § 11.]

Reviser's note: *(1) RCW 61.24.174 was repealed by 2016 c 196 § 4.

** (2) RCW 61.24.173 was repealed by 2021 c 151 § 13, effective June 30, 2023.

Effective date—2021 c 151 §§ 5, 9, 11, and 12: See note following RCW 61.24.135.

Findings—Intent—2021 c 151: See note following RCW 61.24.005.

Effective date—2016 c 196: "This act takes effect July 1, 2016." [2016 c 196 § 6.]

Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 4: See note following RCW 28B.15.069.

Effective date—2012 c 185 § 12: "Section 12 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 29, 2012]." [2012 c 185 § 15.]

Effective date—2011 c 58 §§ 11, 12, and 16: "Sections 11, 12, and 16 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect immediately [April 14, 2011]." [2011 c 58 § 19.]

Findings—Intent—Short title—2011 c 58: See notes following RCW 61.24.005.

RCW 61.24.177 Deed of trust pool—Duty of servicer to maximize net present value. Any duty that servicers may have to maximize net present value under their pooling and servicing agreements is owed to all parties in a deed of trust pool, not to any particular parties, and a servicer acts in the best interests of all parties if it agrees to or implements a modification or workout plan when both of the following apply:

(1) The deed of trust is in payment default, or payment default is reasonably imminent; and

(2) Anticipated recovery under a modification or workout plan exceeds the anticipated recovery through foreclosure on a net present value basis. [2011 c 58 § 13.]

Findings—Intent—Short title—2011 c 58: See notes following RCW 61.24.005.

RCW 61.24.180 Trustee as defendant—Declaration of nonmonetary status—Objection. (1) If a trustee under a deed of trust is named as a defendant in an action or proceeding in which that deed of trust is the subject, and if there are no substantive allegations that seek damages from the trustee or seek to enjoin the foreclosure based on any alleged unlawful actions or omissions by the trustee, including causes of action where the trustee is a codefendant alleged to be jointly or derivatively liable with respect to the trustee's conduct as to the borrower or the trustee's statutory obligations, not less

than thirty-five days after service of the summons and complaint on the trustee, the trustee may file a declaration of nonmonetary status. The declaration must be served on the parties in the manner set forth in superior court civil rule (CR) 5.

(2) The declaration of nonmonetary status must set forth:

(a) The status of the trustee as trustee under the deed of trust that is the subject of the action or proceeding;

(b) That the complaint or pleading does not assert any substantive allegations that seek damages from the trustee or seek to enjoin the foreclosure based on any alleged unlawful actions or omissions by the trustee;

(c) That it has been named as a defendant in the proceeding solely in its capacity as a trustee under the deed of trust and that the trustee agrees to be bound by whatever order or judgment is issued by the court regarding the subject deed of trust;

(d) A statement printed in no less than twelve-point font and bolded that reads:

"You have 30 days from service of this declaration to file and serve an objection with the court in compliance with RCW 61.24.180. If you do not timely object, the trustee will be deemed a nominal party to this action and you may not seek monetary relief against it. Your case may also be removed to federal court if the trustee was the only defendant domiciled in Washington."

(3) The parties who have appeared in the action or proceeding have thirty days from the service of the declaration by the trustee in which to object to the nonmonetary status of the trustee. Any objection must set forth the allegations against the trustee in a manner sufficient to satisfy the pleading standard of superior court civil rule (CR) 8(a).

(4) The objection must:

(a) Conform to superior court civil rule (CR) 10 and the caption must include the following identification: "Objection to Declaration of Nonmonetary Status of Defendant [trustee]";

(b) Contain a short and plain statement of the claim against defendant trustee as described in the complaint, showing that the plaintiff is entitled to relief. Allegations against the trustee may not be raised for the first time in the objection;

(c) Be filed with the court within thirty days of service of the trustee's declaration of nonmonetary status described in subsection (1) of this section;

(d) Be served on the trustee in the manner set forth in superior court civil rule (CR) 5.

(5) Upon filing of a timely objection with the court and timely service of the objection, the trustee must thereafter be required to participate in the action or proceeding.

(6) If an objection is not filed and served within the thirty-day objection period, the trustee: Is not required to participate any further in the action or proceeding; is not subject to any monetary awards as and for damages, attorneys' fees, or costs; and is bound by any court order relating to the subject deed of trust that is the subject of the action or proceeding. The trustee's nonmonetary status is not established until the thirty-day objection period has passed without filing and service of an objection pursuant to subsection (5) of this section.

(7) In the event a party or parties elect not to or fail to timely object to the declaration of nonmonetary status, but later

through discovery or otherwise determine that the trustee should participate in the action, the parties may file and serve on all parties and the trustee a motion pursuant to superior court civil rule (CR) 15. Upon the court's granting of the motion, the trustee must thereafter be required to participate in the action or proceeding, and the court must provide sufficient time before trial for the trustee to be able to respond to the complaint, to conduct discovery, and to bring other pretrial motions in accordance with Washington superior court civil rules.

(8) Upon the filing of the declaration of nonmonetary status, the time within which the trustee is required to file an answer or other responsive pleading is tolled for the period of time within which the opposing parties may object to the declaration. Upon the timely service of an objection to the declaration of nonmonetary status, the trustee has thirty days from the date of service within which to file an answer or other responsive pleading to the complaint or cross-complaint.

(9) For purposes of this section, "trustee" includes any agent or employee of the trustee who performs some or all the duties of a trustee under this chapter and includes substituted trustees and agents of the trustee.

(10) If upon objection to the trustee's declaration of nonmonetary status the court finds that the declaration was filed without sufficient support based upon the allegations made in the complaint, the court may award the plaintiff attorneys' fees and costs associated with the objection together with any actual damages demonstrated. Any award may be made after notice and hearing with submission of evidence of the attorneys' fees and damages. [2018 c 306 § 8.]

RCW 61.24.190 Notices of default—Requirements—Payment—Department not civilly liable if no gross negligence in releasing information—Application.

(1) Except as provided in subsections (6) and (7) of this section, beginning January 1, 2022, and every quarter thereafter, every beneficiary issuing notices of default, or causing notices of default to be issued on its behalf, on residential real property under this chapter must:

(a) Report to the department, on a form approved by the department, the total number of residential real properties for which the beneficiary has issued a notice of default during the previous quarter, together with the street address, city, and zip code;

(b) Remit the amount required under subsection (2) of this section; and

(c) Report and update beneficiary contact information for the person and work group responsible for the beneficiary's compliance with the requirements of the foreclosure fairness act created in this chapter.

(2) For each residential real property for which a notice of default has been issued, the beneficiary issuing the notice of default, or causing the notice of default to be issued on the beneficiary's behalf, shall remit \$250 to the department to be deposited, as provided under RCW 61.24.172, into the foreclosure fairness account. The \$250 payment is required per property and not per notice of default. The beneficiary shall remit the total amount required in a lump sum each quarter.

(3) Reporting and payments under subsections (1) and (2) of this section are due within 45 days of the end of each quarter.

(4) For purposes of this section, "residential real property" includes residential real property with up to four dwelling units, whether or not the property or any part thereof is owner occupied.

(5) The department, including its officials and employees, may not be held civilly liable for damages arising from any release of information or the failure to release information related to the reporting required under this section, so long as the release was without gross negligence.

(6) (a) Beginning on January 1, 2023, this section does not apply to any beneficiary or loan servicer that is a federally insured depository institution, as defined in 12 U.S.C. Sec. 461(b)(1)(A), and that certifies under penalty of perjury that it has issued, or has directed a trustee or authorized agent to issue, fewer than 250 notices of default in the preceding year.

(b) During the 2023 calendar year, this section does not apply to any beneficiary or loan servicer that is a federally insured depository institution, as defined in 12 U.S.C. Sec. 461(b)(1)(A), and that certifies under penalty of perjury that fewer than 50 notices of trustee's sale were recorded on its behalf in 2019.

(c) This subsection (6) applies retroactively to January 1, 2023, and prospectively beginning with May 1, 2023.

(7) This section does not apply to association beneficiaries subject to chapter 64.32, 64.34, or 64.38 RCW. [2023 c 206 § 8; 2021 c 151 § 11.]

Effective date—2023 c 206 §§ 7-9 and 12: See note following RCW 61.24.166.

Effective date—2021 c 151 §§ 5, 9, 11, and 12: See note following RCW 61.24.135.

Findings—Intent—2021 c 151: See note following RCW 61.24.005.