

## **Mortgage Assistance Relief Services**

The FTC issued the Mortgage Assistance Relief Services (MARS) Rule to protect distressed homeowners from mortgage relief scams that have sprung up during the mortgage crisis. Individuals who offer to provide mortgage service programs to help homeowners prevent or postpone foreclosure or help them get other kinds of relief, like loan modifications, forbearance agreements, short sales, deeds-in-lieu of foreclosure, or extensions of time to cure defaults or reinstate loans:

- may not make false or misleading claims,
- must disclose certain information about their services, and
- must comply with record-keeping and compliance requirements.