

My name is LaNita Hiebert and I am fearful of losing my home. The bank that gave me my reverse mortgage in 2005 says I am in default because I have not reimbursed them for the 2011 – 2012 property taxes they paid and the 2012 – 2013 taxes are due. I don't have money to either satisfy my obligation to the bank or the taxes for the current tax year.

The bank has been calling me frequently to set up a repayment plan; however my income cannot support an additional payment.

The legislation that eliminated people with reverse mortgages from the tax deferral program is causing me extreme hardship. My home is over 100 years old and in 2005 a number of repairs were absolutely necessary. My income at that time could not support these costs in addition to my regular living expenses so there seemed to be no alternative other than a reverse mortgage. Since that time, other than the minimal increases to Social Security, my income has remained the same.

I received the Recertification Application to be used to determine my eligibility for the continuance of my deferral status, but as I was completing it, I wasn't sure how to answer one of the items so I called the number given in the letter. When the employee who answered my call learned why I was calling, she stopped me and said "First of all, I have a question for you. Do you have a reverse mortgage on the property?" When I said I did, she told me that I would not qualify anyway, which said to me that it was of no consequence if I didn't return the application. I would have returned it regardless, but based on her response and the fact that I was scheduled for back surgery in two days, which had me pretty nervous, I did not take any action.

It seems that this non-action on my part, based on information I received from the Department of Revenue, is at the crux of the matter and I am so afraid I could lose my home.

Not a good prospect for a 73 year old single lady with many health issues. I really can't see myself standing on a street corner with a cardboard sign asking for money.

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