Defrauding a Secured Creditor in Arizona

By: Jeremy Geigle, Attorney at Law JacksonWhite, P.C.

Before you start loading up that U-HAUL with items from your foreclosed home, make sure you know the difference between items that you can and cannot take with you. Removing essential items or secured appliances – such as air conditioning units, water heaters, interior doors, toilets, sinks, cabinetry, countertops, and even dishwashers – can get you in a whole lot of trouble with the law. In the state of Arizona, a person can face criminal charges for defrauding secured creditors if they knowingly engage in fraudulent activity with property subject to a security interest with intent to hinder or prevent the enforcement of that interest. Basically, this means that removing those new ceiling fans or any other item that is affixed to a foreclosed home, is off limits. And if you do start deconstructing your home and taking any of these items, you might be accused of trying to defraud a secured creditor – a class 6 felony according to Arizona law A.R.S. 13-2204.

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