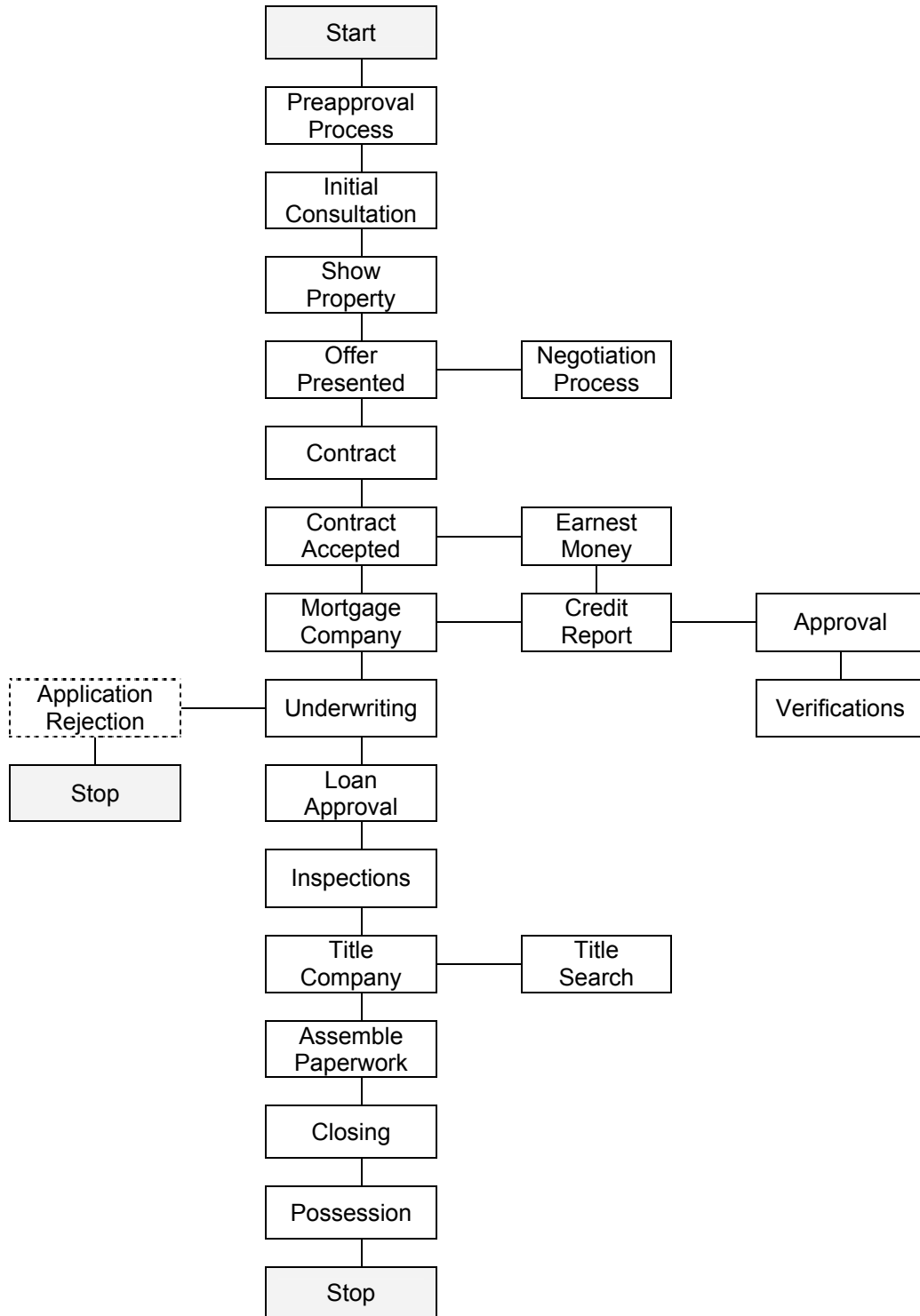


Home Buying Process



Home Buying Process

- ✓ Begin the application process by getting [prequalified and preapproved](#) from a Mortgage Lender. Do this first. Your Agent will need your mortgage qualification, and it will significantly strengthen your offer when you find a home.
- ✓ Get your [financial picture](#) in focus as soon as possible. Since it is an important component, be aware of your credit situation. Check out the Our Services page for additional resources for getting your credit report.
- ✓ Find an Agent that you trust. It is important to do this before you go rushing off looking for homes or you may end up with no representation.
- ✓ Determine your housing [needs and wants](#) to determine what types of houses you should be considering.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the various types of housing available: Single family, townhouse, and condo.
- ✓ While you are out house hunting make a [scorecard](#) for each house to help you keep track of the properties you've seen.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with how to set a value on a house. This can save you a great deal of time and helps to avoid disappointment. The easiest way to do that is to ask your agent for a Comparable Market Analysis.
- ✓ When you find an acceptable house, make an offer.
- ✓ Negotiate your best deal using the information you have acquired.
- ✓ If you haven't already done so:
- ✓ Arrange for home inspection. Protect yourself and do not skip this step!
- ✓ Learn about home warranties and what they cover.
- ✓ Compare and secure homeowners insurance. Since homeowners insurance is a long term expense, getting the best deal here brings savings that continue.
- ✓ Arrange for closing agent or attorney. Make all final preparations for closing.
- ✓ Make moving plans. If you plan to use a moving company, make comparisons and reserve time now.
- ✓ Secure final loan approval and commitment from the lending institution. If you have done your "up-front" work, this should be one of your easiest steps.
- ✓ Do a final walk through of the house.
- ✓ Attend the final closing and settlement.
- ✓ Move to your new home and begin enjoying it!