



CRAIG BROWN
COLUMBIANA COUNTY RECORDER

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Recorder Brown Pushes Crystal Meth Legislation

Columbiana County Recorder Craig Brown wants people searching documents to know whether a property was once used to manufacture illegal drugs. Brown is voicing his support for and urging legislatures to support a measure to allow the recording of documents stating if a property was used for the manufacture of crystal meth.

Brown explained his position by stating, "When people buy property they need to know what they are getting," adding, "If a property is contaminated then a potential owner needs to know that dangers exist."

The legislation is currently in the Infrastructure, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs Committee in the Ohio House of Representatives.

The bill will allow Ohio County recorders to accept documents stating that a property was once a location of crystal meth manufacturing. Once the danger no longer exists it also allows recorders to accept a document stating the property has been satisfactorily cleared of methamphetamine residue.

Brown said that in his opinion the "bill is all about consumer protection," and that "potential property buyers need to know if their investment may cause physical or financial harm.

The process of meth manufacturing is very dangerous. Hazardous chemicals and fumes could affect both the "cook" and others in the building or neighborhood.

Brown explained that once law enforcement identifies and closes the lab only part of the threat has been addressed. He noted that meth manufacturers use products and tools that are very commonly used in households.

"If someone is looking at a home and sees items such as plastic tubing, mason jars, starter fluid, or paint thinner they may not necessarily think that these items may have been used in an illegal manner," explained Brown.

The cost to clean up a former manufacturing site can also be very high, estimated between \$4000 and \$10,000.

If passed the law will allow county recorders to receive a certificate or a certified copy of a certificate stating that a property is contaminated or has been cleared of meth manufacturing materials and waste.

Brown will be contacting and visiting local legislators regarding this bill. He will also be contacting legislators serving on the Infrastructure, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs Committee.

For additional questions please contact Brown directly at (330) 424-9517 ext. 1351 or via email cbrown@ccclerk.org.