



CRAIG BROWN
COLUMBIANA COUNTY RECORDER

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Columbiana County Recorder
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Recorder Warns of Potential Deed Scam

Columbiana County Recorder Craig Brown is worried that many area residents may be misled by a deed scam circulating through Ohio.

Brown warns there is a company called National Deed Service Inc. that has been contacting Ohio residents offering to provide copies of deeds for \$59.50.

National Deed service has an unsatisfactory record at the Better Business Bureau because of a pattern of consumer allegations. Consumers have been misled to believe the company is a governmental agency offering an official or necessary service.

Property owners receive deeds after the closing of a property purchase. It is not necessary for a property owner to possess a copy of their deed. Since, a copy is filed in the recorder's office in the county where the property is located.

According to Brown, "What is upsetting about the activities of companies like this is that they charge you a ridiculous price to do the same thing you are already entitled to receive as a citizen."

"Unfortunately many people fall for the offer because they are unaware of the service they can receive in their local county recording offices," continued Brown.

Copies of deeds, mortgages, and other property documents are available in Ohio county recorders' offices for a nominal fee.

The Columbiana County recorder's office charges \$2 per page if a deed is requested by mail. An acceptable document request will include a book and page number. Document information is located by visiting the Columbiana County recorder's website at www.columbianacountyrecorder.org.

Residents are also encouraged to visit the recorder's office in person to locate their documents. Self-serve copies are available for 25 cents a page at the office.

Brown recommends that if you are ever contacted by mail or telephone to receive what seems to be a governmental service you should contact the local Better Business Bureau to verify its legitimacy.

If you have difficulty locating your information on the website or have additional questions please contact Columbiana County Recorder Craig Brown at (330) 424-9517 ext. 1351 or via email cbrown@ccclerk.org.