



CRAIG BROWN
COLUMBIANA COUNTY RECORDER

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Brown Announces Fraud Alert

Columbiana County Recorder Craig Brown is pleased to announce that the Columbiana County recorder's office has adopted a fraud alert program. The program is voluntary and is designed to let people know when a document has been filed using their name or pertaining to their property.

Brown explained, "In recent years there has been a growing concern about property fraud and especially people transferring property illegally or illegitimately filing liens."

He cited an example of a journalist that received national media attention by transferring the deed of the Empire State Building into his own name using fraudulent documents.

"For the most part the recorder's office is a document library. Although, there are certain filing requirements we look for, we don't have any way to know if a person is filing a fake document," explained Brown.

Registration in the program is simple and is available by visiting the recorder's website or by directly contacting Craig Brown. Since documents can be filed using different names, people are encouraged to register not only their address and full name but also to include variations and or nicknames.

The program is free and people can register online to receive free property transfer alerts by email or even by text message. A link to the registration site is available on the introduction page at www.columbianacountyrecorder.org.

The fraud alert is program is provided by Cott Systems of Worthington, Ohio. Cott Systems is also the vendor of the office's land property system.

"I'm proud that Columbiana County is one of the first counties to adopt this program. I think it shows people how this office is forward thinking while being responsible with taxpayers' money," Brown stated.

Brown summed the importance of the program by closing, "Your home is your most important investment. It is important that you do everything you can to protect it. The last thing you need is people messing with your claim to ownership or filing phony liens that will destroy your credit."

If individuals have questions or comments they are encouraged to contact County Recorder Craig Brown directly at (330) 424-9517 ext. 1351 or via email cbrown@ccclerk.org.