

PRESS RELEASE

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CLERK WARNS: DON'T BE BILKED BY DEED PROCESSING NOTICE

Copies of Property Owners' Deed Records Can be Obtained Locally or Online

A notice from a Delaware company was recently sent to property owners in Liberty County telling them that they should obtain a copy of a “grant deed” and that the company will obtain and provide a copy of the owner’s deed and property profile for a fee ranging from \$3.00 to \$63.00.

According to F. Barry Wilkes, Clerk of the Superior Court of Liberty County, the office in which all land records are filed and permanently archived for the benefit of property owners in the county, the services offered by Record Transfer Services in the “Deed Processing Notice” it mailed recently are available in the clerk’s office or online to property owners “without having to pay a company for the information.”

“All land owners have to do to obtain a copy of their deed(s) to is to come to the Clerk’s Office in the Liberty County Justice Center. For those who desire to locate land records themselves when they come to the Clerk’s Office, we provide in-house computers for searching all real estate databases for deeds recorded from the early 1970s to the present. My staff provides assistance to anyone who needs help finding their deed records. So, I ardently discourage paying an exorbitant fee to anyone to have them obtain a copy of the deed to your property—or for copies of liens and plats. The other information that the company says it will provide owners about their property can be obtained online from the Liberty County Tax Assessor’s office at <http://gis.libertycountyga.com/flex2/index.html>,” he explained.

Real estate records of the state dating back to 1992 can also be viewed and printed online. “Superior court clerks created a statewide real estate information system in 1996 under the auspices of the Georgia Superior Court Clerks’ Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA) that enables residents of Georgia to access deeds, liens, and plats online. All a property owner has to do to access his or her land records is to go to www.gsccca.org, click on the Search link and follow directions. Every clerk of superior court of the state is required by law to transmit daily land records for his or her county to the Superior Court

Clerk's Cooperative Authority, so its database provides immediate online access to all real estate records of this state," Wilkes said.

By law, the cost for copies of deeds, liens, and plats made in the superior court clerk's office is \$.50 per page if no assistance is required for copying and \$1.00 per page if assistance is required. Copies for any land record printed from GSCCCA's online database cost \$.50 per page.

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