

William C. G. Velázquez, Chief Deputy Recorder

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Greetings:

As the Office of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds travels around the County talking about the dangers of property fraud, you will likely receive inquiries from your constituents about this growing problem. Below is some information that can help educate and protect them.

Though it is easy for savvy fraudsters to attach a false claim to any home (because our office is not authorized by law to verify legal claims made in recordings), it is also easy for homeowners to become aware when something is filed against their title thanks to CCRD's **FREE Property Fraud Alert**. Once a homeowner registers their 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN), the free service notifies them by phone or email as soon as any document is recorded against their property, meaning quick legal action can be taken before a potential scammer can use the false interest for their own gain.

To help explain the issue and show residents step-by-step how to register for the **FREE Property Fraud Alert**, we have created a video that we urge you to share on your social networks and embed on your own website.

To watch the video and obtain a copy to share, post or embed on your website or social networks:

- Visit <u>CookRecorder.com</u> (the video is in the center of our homepage)
- Once you have pressed Play, mousing over the video player will reveal two options in the upper right corner of the player ("Share" or "Embed").
- To share the video to your Facebook or Twitter pages, copy the URL that appears after clicking "Share", and post. Visiting the Vimeo hosting page by clicking the video title underneath the video window will allow you to share it directly to your social networks by clicking "Share."
- To embed the video directly into your own webpage, select the "Embed" option and paste the provided code into your site's code, where applicable.
- To download a copy that can be burned to DVD, CD-R or put on a memory stick, click through to the Vimeo page and select "Download" under the video description, and choose the file size you prefer.
- If you would like us to send you a CD or DVD of the movie, please call (312) 603-5065.

We hope that you find this video informative and share it with those you serve. If you are having any upcoming events targeted towards seniors, consumer protection, or housing issues, I'd love to come out with my team and talk about the FREE Property Fraud Alert and sign people up. Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Recorder of Deeds, Cook County