

NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Consumer Agency Warns Against Being Overcharged for Deed Copies

Columbia, SC.....For the second time in less than a year, the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is warning consumers about being overcharged for a certified copy of the deed to their home.

Unscrupulous companies are once again targeting homeowners in South Carolina mailing official looking letters to property owners offering certified copies of deeds for an exorbitant fee, typically more than \$50. Some websites even quote the Federal Government advising property owners to have a certified copy of their deed. SCDCA has learned of mailings in Richland and Lexington Counties, but expect that like eight months ago, the practice will be widespread. These letters are not only misleading, they offer a service consumers can get for themselves – at far less cost.

Property owners wishing to obtain a certified copy of their deed can do so at a cost of less than \$5 from their county services department.

The need for a certified copy is negligible. In most cases property owners receive the property deed upon purchase, and records of such are recorded, preserved, and maintained at your local county office. However, if you wish to have a copy in case of loss or theft, you may do for a substantially less fee by contacting your local county services department. Consumer Affairs reminds consumers to keep all important and official documents in a secure location.

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About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers.

Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education.

For more information, visit www.sccoconsumer.gov.
