



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 12, 2016 **Contact:** Kevin Clark, Enforcement Officer
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HOMEOWNER ALERT

Companies Charge Excessive Fees and Gather Sensitive Information

(Woodland, CA)- August 12, 2016 – The Yolo County District Attorney’s Office, in conjunction with the Yolo County Clerk Recorder, is warning community members about a real estate practice that is on the rise involving companies that encourage homeowners to pay money to a third-party for copies of their property documents. These companies are known to charge residents upwards of \$80 for title deed copies and often ask for identifying and confidential information, including social security numbers, to complete the transaction.

The letters often contain public information from the Yolo County Clerk Recorder’s office and can look like an official government document. Residents should be aware that the Clerk Recorder’s Office rarely sends letters to community members, and they will never ask for personal information. In addition, property documents are public records, meaning that neither homeowners nor companies need to show identification nor provide their social security number to receive copies of these documents.

The Yolo County District Attorney’s Office recommends that homeowners obtain copies of property documents directly through the Yolo County Clerk Recorder. These copies can be requested via mail or in person at the Clerk Recorder’s Office in Woodland. The office charges \$7.35 for the first page of a title deed copy and \$2.00 for each additional page. Residents also receive the original copies of their deeds two to three weeks after they are recorded.

To receive more information about obtaining copies of property documents, visit the Yolo County Clerk Recorder’s website at www.yolorecorder.org/recording/copies. Please visit the Yolo County District Attorney at www.yoloda.org for more information or call 855-4-YOLO-DA to speak to someone about this alert.

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