



ALLEGHENY COUNTY NEWS

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Allegheny County Warns Property Owners of Costly Scam

PITTSBURGH — Allegheny County today issued a warning to property owners about a recurring scam involving home deeds. Some title and deed companies routinely send letters to homeowners about the importance of having an official or certified copy of their deed, and offer to provide a copy for a substantial charge. Deeds are readily available through the Department of Real Estate for \$5 in person or \$10 through the mail.

“It is disheartening to know that there are companies that purposely try to confuse people and profit from their lack of knowledge of government offices,” said Department of Real Estate Manager Valerie McDonald Roberts. “Homeowners receive the original deed when they purchase their home. They can get an additional certified copy for a small charge. There is no reason to pay \$70 for this document.”

A certified copy of a deed is needed to sell a home, refinance, or as evidence in a court hearing. To obtain a copy, visit the Department of Real Estate in Room 101 of the County Office Building at 542 Forbes Avenue or send a request form by mail to:

Department of Real Estate
542 Forbes Avenue, Room 101
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The Department of Real Estate accepts cash, money order or certified checks for copy payment, but no personal checks. Mail request forms can be found online at www.alleghenycounty.us/re/copy.aspx.

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