

PRESS RELEASE

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Consumer Alert Advisory

District Attorney Charles Branson received information concerning a recent series of solicitations for "certified real estate deeds" that are being sent to Douglas County consumers. The Douglas County Register of Deeds has informed the District Attorney's office that numerous consumers have received direct mailings from an out of state company that offers to obtain "official or certified" copies of these "important documents" for consumers and charge a \$69.50 fee for doing so. Consumers are advised that such records are available directly from the Register of Deeds at a cost of \$1.00 per page for the copy and \$1.00 to certify the deed. Most deeds are going to be one or two pages, making the average cost for obtaining the same information from the Register of Deeds two or three dollars.

The ad states the company obtained its information about consumers from public records. The solicitation purports to be relaying information obtained from the U.S. Government Federal Information Center to encourage consumers to pay the fee being charged by the company. Consumers should be aware that Kansas law allows access to public records so long as the requester does not intend to, and will not use any list of names or addresses contained in or derived from the records for the purpose of selling or offering for sale any property or service to any person listed.

Consumers who received this solicitation are encouraged to contact the District Attorney's Consumer Protection Division intake line at 330-2849.