



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Greene County Recorder of Deeds Offers Free Property Fraud Alert Notification**

Greene County real estate owners may now sign up for a new service aimed at identifying and limiting property fraud.

The Property Fraud Alert Notification Service is a free service made possible by Greene County Recorder of Deeds Cheryl Dawson-Spaulding. It provides an early warning system that alerts property owners by email if their names are on documents recorded at the Recorder's office.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigations, property fraud is the fastest growing white collar crime in the United States. Deed fraud occurs when someone transfers interest or borrows money against real estate by pretending to be the owner of property that they don't own. Often victims are unaware that their homes or identity have been compromised until a claim is made against their property either by a new "owner" or a lender. Recorders have no choice but to record a properly executed and notarized document when it is presented for recording.

"We understand that this alert service can't prevent fraud from happening, but it is a step in the right direction to help alert property owners so they can take legal action if they believe possible fraudulent activity has occurred," Dawson-Spaulding said.

In addition to helping provide an extra layer of protection for Greene County residents, Dawson-Spaulding added she's pleased not only that the service is being offered for free but that the development of the system didn't cost additional taxpayer funds. The entire project was a collaboration between the Recorder's Office and the Greene County

Information Systems department. Developing the system in-house ultimately saved the cost of purchasing software or paying an outside company to provide the service.

To sign up for the Greene County Property Fraud Alert Notification Service, visit [www.greenecountymo.gov/recorder](http://www.greenecountymo.gov/recorder).

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*Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving more than 275,000 people (2010 census). Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.*

**For additional information, contact Donna Barton, Public Information Officer, at 417-844-4311 or [dlbarton@greenecountymo.gov](mailto:dlbarton@greenecountymo.gov).**