

Josh **LANGFELDER** COUNTY RECORDER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECORDER'S OFFICE LAUNCHES FREE NOTIFICATION SERVICE

May 27, 2009, SPRINGFIELD, IL - The Sangamon County Recorder's Office is pleased to announce a new online service to help monitor and protect land owners against property fraud. The subscription service is offered free of charge as a valuable step towards providing the people of Sangamon County the ability to keep a watchful eye for signs of potential fraudulent activity involving their property.

"In our current economic climate, property and mortgage fraud are becoming more prevalent," said Sangamon County Recorder Josh Langfelder. "Opening the Property Fraud Alert service to everyone and making Sangamon County less attractive to criminals is in the best interest of the community."

While it can happen to anyone, perpetrators of property fraud often prey on the elderly, absentee property owners and individuals who have paid off their mortgage. While these crimes have yet to occur in Sangamon County, property fraud is a serious problem in other parts of Illinois as well as across the country.

"Protecting real estate property along with consumers' information is a top priority" Langfelder said. "Implementing this program will provide citizens an early warning system allowing them to take action should they deem possible fraudulent activity has occurred."

Individuals can sign-up by going to www.propertyfraudalert.com/sangamonil or by contacting the Recorder's office at (217) 535-3151. It only takes a few minutes and simply requires the person's name and a phone number or e-mail address. The system will then monitor the subscribed name and delivers an alert by e-mail or telephone if the user's name appears on a document filed in the Sangamon County Recorder's Office.

Most alerts received will be for legitimate documents, such as those filed when a home is bought or sold. However, if the property owner is concerned about a document he or she is unaware of, the alert contains information on how the owner can investigate the matter and take appropriate action.

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