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Protect Your Home from Scammers with Kalamazoo County's Free Property Fraud Alert

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – *Property Fraud Alert* is an online subscription service offered to the public that allows subscribers to have their name monitored within the Kalamazoo County Register of Deeds office to track possible fraudulent recordings that could affect their property.

"I hope Kalamazoo County property owners take advantage of this free tool to protect their most valuable assets," said Kalamazoo County Clerk & Register of Deeds Meredith Place. "We, unfortunately, know that mortgage fraud and identity theft crimes do happen in our community. I was proud to launch this new service to help Kalamazoo County residents protect themselves and fight back against scams."

The Kalamazoo County Register of Deeds office partnered with Fidlar Technologies to bring the *Property Fraud Alert* online in October 2022. In its first seven months of operation, 1,090 county residents signed up for the alerts.

To register for alerts, visit www.propertyfraudalert.com/MIKalamazoo. Subscribers who receive alerts can contact 1-800-728-3858 to take steps in response.

"Property fraud can happen to anyone. We know that people who are elderly, in long-term care facilities, new homeowners, and people who reside out of state part-time are frequent targets of scam artists," said Place. "For example, we might see a criminal attempt to record a fraudulent deed so that they can present it to a lender and secure a mortgage in someone else's name. The *Property Fraud Alert* immediately notifies you if someone attempts to do this with your property."

With *Property Fraud Alert*, subscribers will be notified when the name they have submitted is used in any recording activities within the Register of Deed's office. When subscribing to the service, the subscriber will have the option to be notified by e-mail or telephone call.

While *Property Fraud Alert* does not prevent fraud from happening, it provides an early warning system for property owners to take appropriate actions should they determine that possible fraudulent activity has taken place.

"The best protection against property fraud is being proactive. Don't be duped by companies manufacturing the idea that you need to secure title protection for hundreds or thousands of dollars when you can enroll in this free service giving you peace of mind that your most precious asset is secure," said Place.

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