



KEN BURKE, CPA

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER - PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Clerk of the County Court • Recorder of Deeds • Clerk and Accountant of the Board of County Commissioners • Custodian of County Funds • County Auditor • Clerk of the Water and Navigation Control Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Pinellas Clerk Helps You “Cover Your Assets” With Property Fraud Alert

The Clerk’s office has officially launched a proactive subscription service that offers citizens peace of mind in the protection of their property’s title. The Property Fraud Alert is a program initiated by Ken Burke, Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, to help the public protect their property against fraud. Customers signing up for this free service will be notified immediately, either by phone or email, of any document recorded against their property in the Official Records of the Pinellas County Clerk’s office where deeds, mortgages and other documents are recorded.

According to the FBI, property and mortgage fraud is the fastest growing white-collar crime. Property fraud occurs when someone files a fraudulent document in the Official Records against your property. Often times, this can go undetected if the property owner does not periodically check their property in the Official Records. “It is really exciting to be able to offer this vital service free of charge to the community. Everyone can benefit from protecting their assets from fraud and that is precisely what this monitoring system achieves,” says Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller. Although the alert system does not prevent the actual fraudulent activity from taking place, it does provide an early warning system for subscribers to become aware of what may have otherwise gone undetected. Subscribers armed with this notification system will be able to take prompt, appropriate action if they determine the activity to be fraudulent. It’s about keeping the public informed.

The public can sign up for the Clerk’s Property Fraud Alert service by visiting the clerk’s website www.mypinellasclerk.org or by calling the Property Fraud Alert hotline at 1-800-728-3858.

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ABOUT THE CLERK’S OFFICE:

The Clerk of the Circuit Court was established as a public trustee by the Florida Constitution in 1838. The Clerk of the Circuit Court serves as the Clerk of Courts, the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Auditor, Recorder and Custodian of all county funds.