

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Deed Scam Targets Montgomery County Homeowners

Norristown, January 11, 2017 - Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds Jeanne Sorg is warning homeowners to be aware of a misleading solicitation mailer being sent by companies such as First Documents based in California. The solicitation is offering to provide homeowners a “Property Assessment Profile and Complimentary Grant Deed” for an \$83 document fee.

“This mailer looks official,” said Sorg, “and solicits those unfamiliar with the process to pay an exorbitant fee to obtain a copy of their own property records. Unfortunately,” she added, “this is not a new scam, and while the mailer does have a disclaimer,” Sorg continued, “this company and other data-mining companies like them are clearly out to make a considerable profit from unsuspecting homeowners, many times targeting the elderly or new homeowners.”

“Not only are you able to search your property data from home,” Sorg said, “but if residents need help obtaining their property records they may call or stop by my Norristown office for assistance. There is no need to hire a third party to gather your property information for you,” she asserted.

Sorg is committed to protecting Montgomery County homeowners, and is also pleased to announce a free service called FraudSleuth that allows homeowners to set up an online profile, which will alert them if a document is recorded against their name or parcel number.

“Don’t be misled,” Sorg warned. “My staff and I are happy to help all Montgomery County homeowners with questions about obtaining their property information.”

Sorg has reported this misleading solicitation mailer to the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office, Department of Consumer Protection.

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