

Don't pay for copy of deed, says registry

By State House News Service

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Salem — “As spring arrives, so does the scam artists,” says Southern Essex Register of Deeds John O'Brien. A company calling itself National Record Services, Inc. of Illinois is sending letters to Essex County property owners informing them that for \$69.50, they will send them an official copy of their deed.

“This is nothing more than a consumer rip-off,” said O'Brien. “This company is trying to scare people by telling them that the United States Government Federal Citizen Information Center recommends that property owners should have an official copy of their deed, and this company will provide one for \$69.50. This is absolutely outrageous, and nothing more than a scheme.”

According to O'Brien, in 2007, another company called, National Deeds Service was doing the same thing by charging property owners \$59.50. He exposed that scam in 2007, and had hoped that it would not raise its ugly head again, but it has.

For the record, O'Brien stated, “Anyone who purchased a home after 1983 can print a copy of their deed off our Web site free of charge. Any purchase before 1983 a copy can be obtained by calling the Registry of Deeds Customer Service Department at 978-542-1704, or by e-mailing us at southernessexcustomerservice@sec.state.ma.us, and we will be happy to provide you with one.”

The Web site is www.salemdeeds.com.

This information was provided by the Southern Essex Registry of Deeds.