

**BUCHOLZ TACKLES LAND FRAUD**

DuPage County Recorder, Fred Bucholz, is pleased to announce that the Recorder's Office is moving forward with measures to guard against identity theft and land fraud. A commonly recorded document type, known as a Quit Claim Deed, is the simplest way for a property owner to transfer property, from one person to another. This type of deed can also be used by someone attempting to commit land fraud. "Although this doesn't occur often in DuPage, I feel that by taking aggressive steps now, we can save property owners from being defrauded," said Recorder Bucholz.

This commonly used deed type has been a vehicle for fraudulent claims elsewhere. "We have come to learn that people who commit these types of crimes simply process the fraudulent deed and take the money and run," explains Bucholz. Under the new program, the Recorder's Office will issue written notification to the property owner that a Quit Claim Deed has been recorded, affecting title to the property. "This program is primarily a notification, or a heads-up, for the property owner that someone has recorded a Quit Claim Deed against their property, ensuring that no fraudulent deeds are recorded," said Bucholz. State's Attorney Joe Birkett, working with Bucholz, has agreed to collaborate in the investigation of any potential fraudulent deeds.

"These days it is so easy to access information of any kind. This notification system is just one step toward protecting residents of DuPage County who might be at risk," said Bucholz. "State's Attorney Birkett and I are being proactive in defending our residents and to make sure there is awareness about this kind of fraud."

To combat and prevent fraudulent activity, the Quit Claim Deed Notification System has been developed entirely within the Recorder's Office in conjunction with the State's Attorney's Office and the County's Information Technology staff. This program will require no additional costs to the current budget and uses no additional taxpayer funds going forward. The program will be facilitated by the Recorder's Office using current office staff.

For more information about the DuPage County Recorder's Office, please visit the office's website at [www.dupageco.org/recorder](http://www.dupageco.org/recorder).