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Otsego County homeowners warned of deed scam

By WKTV News
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(WKTV) - Otsego County residents are being warned of a deed scam targeting property owners.

County Clerk Kathy Sinnott Gardner and Sheriff Richard Devlin Jr. have been contacted by several local residents who have received what appears to be an official letter from a company called Record Transfer Services, which is supposedly out of Sioux Falls, S.D. In the letter, the homeowner is urged to send \$83 to the company for a copy of the property owner's deed.

Sinnott Gardner and Devlin warn against the scam and the state attorney general's office has been contacted.

"While this notice appears official, it was not issued by any government agency in New York State," State Sen. James Seward said. "The company may be offering an actual service, but it isn't necessary and isn't worth the fee being charged.

"I will be contacting New York State Attorney General Schneiderman in regard to this solicitation," he said. "In the meantime, my advice: Shred the notice and throw it out."

Sinnott Gardner says the property owners who are in need of a certified copy of their deed can obtain one from the Otsego County Clerk's Office. The maximum cost would be \$10, with a minimum cost of \$1.

Sinnott Gardner asked anyone who receives such a notice to contact the Otsego County Clerk's Office at (607) 547-4276.