



## *Office of Yates County Clerk*

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**Lois E. Hall**

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*and*

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### **For Immediate Release --**

The Yates County Clerk's Office, assisted by the Yates County Chamber of Commerce, issued a consumer alert today regarding a recent direct mail campaign aimed at property owners.

Individuals receive a "Recorded Deed Notice" in the mail or attached to an e-mail. This notice alerts the property owner that they should obtain a copy of their Current Grant Deed and Property Assessment Profile. The company's name is First Documents and is based in Corona, CA. The document appears to be very official but is, in fact, a scam.

When contacted about the solicitation, Yates County Clerk, Lois Hall stated, "We see scams like this several times during the year and we always let our constituents know that any unsolicited scheme should be questioned. Our professional staff is here to review mailings like this and save them unnecessary expense."

According to Mike Linehan, President and CEO of the Yates County Chamber of Commerce, consumers should be wary of any solicitation that seems to come from no where. "One call to your local Chamber of Commerce (315.536.3111) can verify any solicitation that you receive, either face to face, over the telephone or through mail and electronic communication", said Linehan. He suggests that residents should always try to do business with local firms, check references, obtain a certificate of insurance and inquire if the business is a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Hall and Linehan urged local business owners and consumers to check with the Yates County Chamber of Commerce before entering into any agreement with an unknown solicitor. Hall also noted, "Citizens should be aware of this important issue and any suspected fraud should immediately be reported to law enforcement."

For more information, contact the Chamber at 315.536.3111 or the Clerk's office at 315.536.5120