

# SEARCHING FOR A COPY OF YOUR DEED

As the Mercer County Clerk, I am pleased to have the opportunity to advise you on the process for searching for a copy of your deed. In my role as County Clerk, we maintain a public-record library of all properties in Mercer County. I oversee the management of this library, which contains volumes of deeds, mortgages, maps and other land records located in the Old Court House Annex in Trenton, dating back to the 1800s. One of my recent achievements this term in office was to bring many records online so that residents can view or obtain a copy of a recorded deed without having to leave their home computer. Property records going back approximately thirteen years, to 1997, are posted to our online records search, "McPress", at <http://records.mercercounty.org> and can be obtained by paying a nominal one-time user fee. For larger amounts of transactions, there are monthly and yearly subscriptions.

If your deed was recorded prior to 1997, or if you want to see the history of ownership, you also can now send a letter to the Mercer County Clerk's Office requesting a copy of your deed from our office library. To obtain property information via telephone, call the Mercer County Clerk's Office at 609-989-6476 and provide your complete property address, approximate purchase date, and lot and block number (if available), along with the full name of the owner. A service associate will advise you of the exact cost for copying and mailing of the information. The State of NJ has set the cost of a deed at \$1.50 per page. Though generally not necessary, residents may choose to have their deed certified for an additional \$10.00 charge.

Please be aware that there are direct mail solicitations circulating from private companies offering to provide a certified copy of your deed at an exorbitant rate. In the past few years, Mercer County towns have been blanketed with official-looking letters urging property owners to pay a fee of \$69.50 to obtain a certified copy of a property deed. In most cases, the County Clerk's Office can process and mail to a resident a copy of a certified deed for less than \$20.00. Unfortunately, these solicitations are legal and result in their customers overpaying for this service. Therefore, we continue to warn people to beware of being victimized.

You may visit our office at the Courthouse Annex at 209 South Broad Street, in Trenton, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, or on Wednesday evenings until 7:00 p.m. Mail-in requests should be sent to the Office of the Mercer County Clerk, 209 South Broad Street, PO Box 8068, Trenton, New Jersey 08650. Our website for online searching is <http://records.mercercounty.org>. Additional help for those seeking land record information can be found at [www.mercercounty.org](http://www.mercercounty.org) and choosing County Clerk.