



Better Business Bureau®  
222 West Market Street  
Akron, OH 44303

**Date:** April 3, 2008

**Contact:** Victor J. Wlaszyn, President  
The Better Business Bureau  
330-253-4590 or 1-800-825-8887

## **BBB Warns area Consumers about a Deed Scam**

**AKRON, OH - April 3, 2008** - Area consumers have received in the mail a letter from a company called National Deed Service Inc. in Northbrook, IL. offering a certified copy of the consumer's property deed for \$69.50. On its solicitation, National Service Inc. states that the U.S. Government Federal Citizen Information Center website "recommends that property owners should have an official or certified copy of their deed". National Deed Service Inc. is not affiliated with any local government agency. Consumers should be aware that most government records may be obtained either for free or at nominal costs from government agencies.

Based on BBB File the company has an unsatisfactory report due to unanswered complaints. The company has resolved some complaints presented to them by the BBB, however, the company did not respond to **other complaints.**

This company likewise has an **unsatisfactory record** at the Bureau due to a **pattern** of consumer allegations. According to the information provided to the Bureau, consumers allege they were misled by the company's solicitations into thinking that Illinois Deed Provider was a governmental agency, and/or that the service provided was either necessary and/or official. As a result of consumers' requests, the complaints submitted to the Bureau were used for information purposes only.

According to information posted on the Summit County Fiscal Office's website:

**The Summit County Fiscal Office has learned a company called National Deed Service, Inc. is researching public records and writing to homeowners regarding purchasing a certified deed from them.**

**You do not have to use a private company to obtain a certified copy of the deed to your home.**

**You should have received a copy of your original deed shortly after the closing of your home. If you cannot find your deed, our office can provide a copy. You can mail a request. The cost of the copy is \$4 as required by Ohio Revised Code; add \$1.00 if you want the copy certified. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request.**

Portage County Recording office informed the BBB they charge \$2.00 per page for the document. Ashland and Medina County Recording Offices charge \$2.00 per page if a consumer requests the document mailed to them or \$0.10 per page if the consumer goes into the office to obtain the document themselves. Richland County Recording Office charges \$2.00 per page plus \$1.00 for a certified copy. Wayne County Recorders office charges \$1.00 per page plus \$5.00 for a certified copy.

Before doing business with any new company, consumers are urged to check the Akron BBB's reliability reports by calling 330.253.4590, or by visiting the Akron BBB online at [www.akronbbb.org](http://www.akronbbb.org).

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Copy of the letter is attached