

§ 75-43. Solicitation of a fee for copy of recorded documents.

(a) Any person, firm, or corporation soliciting a fee in exchange for providing a copy of a record available at the register of deeds office shall state on the top of the document used for the solicitation, in conspicuous type, all of the following:

- (1) That the solicitation is not from a State agency or a local unit of government.
- (2) That no action is legally required by the person being solicited.
- (3) The fee for obtaining a copy of the record directly from the register of deeds that has custody of the record.
- (4) The information necessary to contact the register of deeds that has custody of the record.
- (5) The name and physical address of the person, firm, or corporation soliciting the fee.

(b) A document used for a solicitation governed by this section shall not contain deadline dates or be in a form or contain language designed to make the document appear to be issued by a State agency or local unit of government or to appear to impose a legal duty on the person being solicited.

(c) A person, firm, or corporation soliciting a fee in exchange for providing a copy of a record may not charge a fee that is greater than four times the amount the register of deeds with custody of the record would charge for a copy of the same record.

(d) A violation of this section constitutes an unfair trade practice under G.S. 75-1.1 and is subject to all of the enforcement and penalty provisions under this Article.

(e) For the purposes of this section, the term "solicit" means to advertise or market to a nonbusiness entity with whom the solicitor has no preexisting business relationship. (2018-80, s. 3.1.)