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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Stay Alert. Protect Your Property.
*Clerk's Office Kicks Off Property Fraud Awareness Campaign.***

(PULASKI, AR.) – In 2023, real estate fraud ranked among the most reported scams, with the Federal Bureau of Investigation receiving 9,251 complaints—more than several other fraud types—resulting in over \$145 million in losses. The Pulaski County Clerk's office has established a six-month awareness and alert campaign to educate home and/or landowners to combat the increase in real estate property fraud. The goal is to increase real estate property and keep residents' property safe from fraudsters. Many targeted property owners are elderly or have vacant lots; however, anyone can become a victim.

"Protecting our residents' property is one of our top priorities. This six-month awareness campaign is designed to educate the public on how to prevent real estate fraud before it happens," said Pulaski County Circuit and County Clerk Terri Hollingsworth. "Real estate fraud can happen to anyone, but knowledge is the first line of defense."

The campaign is set to run from this month through September, and afterward, the office will continue to share real estate-related information and resources. Residents are encouraged to follow the Clerk's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor) to stay up to date with the latest information.

Hollingsworth will visit with title companies and attend neighborhood association meetings to provide in-depth information regarding property fraud. If you would like the



Clerk to attend neighborhood meetings in your area, please contact Community Outreach Director Tiffany Trotter at (501) 340-8559 or Community Outreach Specialist Ternesha Womack at (501) 340-6682.

Take these steps to help ensure your property stays secure and in your possession:

1. Visit the Pulaski County Clerk's Office website and sign up for property fraud name alerts.
 - The Property Fraud Alert program is a FREE notification service that e-mails subscribers each time a document with their name is recorded in the Pulaski County real estate department.
2. Search your property by visiting the Pulaski County Assessor's website, clicking on 'Services', then 'Property Look Up' to access your property information.
3. For any questions or concerns, call the real estate department in the Clerk's office at (501) 340-8433.

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