

HOW TO:

TIPS TO PREVENT FRAUD

Motor Vehicle & Property Owners

Are you planning to buy a vehicle? Do you own a home?

AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF VEHICLE TITLE FRAUD

- Before you buy, get a vehicle history report from providers such as [VehicleHistory.gov](https://www.vehiclehistory.com), [Carfax.com](https://www.carfax.com) and [AutoCheck.com](https://www.autocheck.com).
- Check to ensure that the listed name on the title is the same as the person offering the vehicle for sale.
- Always verify make, model, VIN#, color, mileage, and look for signs of alterations in either of these.
- If the seller avoids in person meetings and is reluctant to give you proper paperwork, you may want to reconsider the purchase.
- If the seller's title looks newer than the vehicle it represents, it may be fraudulent. Remember vehicles and their titles usually age together.
- If the title is for a salvaged or re-built vehicle, that should be disclosed at purchase.
- If the seller has never registered the vehicle in Georgia or any other state, or the mileage appears to be low for a vehicle of its age and condition, that could be a red flag.
- Examine the title. If it has any handwritten or typed corrections or changes in the information on the title, that is a bad title. Even if it isn't fraudulent, we cannot accept a title with written changes on it.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HOME TITLE THEFT

The Filing Activity Notification System (FANS) is designed to offer individuals the ability to receive a notification when certain real estate and personal property records are filed with, indexed, and data is transmitted by Clerks of Superior Court throughout the state of Georgia. To register your property, opt in at fans.gsccca.org.

BEWARE OF BUSINESSES OFFERING TAX-SAVING ASSISTANCE FOR A FEE

Homeowners can file an assessment appeal and/or apply for a homestead exemption themselves. These do-it-yourself filings save homeowners time and money. Homestead exemptions can be filed online at DeKalbTax.org/file-homestead-exemptions.

Vehicle owners do not have to pay a business to renew their vehicle registration. Renew online at eservices.drives.ga.gov or locate a self-service kiosk at DeKalbTax.org/kiosks.



For more helpful tips, please visit DeKalbTax.org/Did-You-Know

Contact us by phone at **404-298-4000** or email
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Property Tax: proptax@dekalbcountyga.gov

From the Office of DeKalb County Tax Commissioner Irvin J. Johnson

