



WHAT DOES THE SALT LAKE COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE DO?

Recorder Mission:

The mission of the Salt Lake County Recorder's Office is to record and protect the citizen's rights to hold and own real property by creating, maintaining and making available a comprehensive, accurate and searchable complete public record of all real estate transactions in Salt Lake County and ensuring a permanent chain of title. A public record tells the world who owns the property.

How far back does the record go?

Brigham Young established the Recorder's Office in 1850. Many early Utah residents had lost land in the Midwest, land that was purchased with a handshake, so they were very anxious to establish a public record of land transactions.

How many records are on file in Salt Lake County Recorder's Office?

There are over 12,000,000 documents in the custody of the Salt Lake County Recorder's Office. Every day we add and record on average 1,000 to 1,200 documents.

Why is the Recorder an elected official?

The Recorder's Office is independent by statute for many reasons. One is that potential conflicts of interest exist if the County, which buys and sells property, also establishes boundary lines while being the custodian of the Public Record. The County Recorder is elected to assure that the Recorder's Office is responsible to the citizens of the County.

Why does the Recorder's Office charge to place documents in the public record?

By State Statute there is a fee for services in the Recorder's Office for two reasons; the exchange of funds is required by law to complete real property transactions and fees collected in Salt Lake County are enough to cover 100% of the operating costs for the Recorder's Office. This means that only those who use the Recorder's Office pay for it, not all taxpayers.

How long does it take for a document to be accessible to the public after it arrives in the Recorder's Office?

Even though it is common for Recorders to have huge backlogs of unfinished documents, the Salt Lake County Recorder's Office has gained national recognition as one of the most efficient in the nation. Information abstracted from these documents is made available as it is processed in real time using our newly in-house-developed DARWIN (Document Abstract Recording Window) system.

Julie Dole • Salt Lake County Recorder

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Does the Recorder's Office do anything other than record documents?

The Recorder's Office is responsible for the creation and the accuracy of the County plat maps. These maps define every parcel of land in the County for ownership and tax assessment purposes.

What is new in the Recorder's Office?

The Salt Lake County Recorder's Office has a history of innovation. It was the first in the nation to computerize, allowing the public fast access to scanned images of documents, the first in the nation to provide Internet access to the Recorder's Information Systems, and the first in the nation to enable the recording of completely digital documents. The standards put in place by the Salt Lake County Recorder's Office for digital recording were adopted as national standards.

In 2017 the Recorder's Office initiated DARWIN to modernize and ensure more efficiency and accuracy in processing recorded documents and history of ownership.

On August 1, 2017, we joined the county contract for online payments and will be accepting credit/debit cards in the near future. A convenience fee will be paid by those using their cards, so there will be no additional operating costs for this service. With the addition of online payments, we have plans to expand online accessibility to recorded documents.

"I am honored to serve with the exceptional and dedicated staff in the Salt Lake County Recorder's Office. Their longevity serving in this Office shows their pride and job satisfaction. It has been a pleasure to receive high praise on their behalf from our clients/customers in the Property Industry. We will continue to set the standards by which other Recorders are judged."

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