

## **To People Who Are Adversely Affected By A Lien Filed Against Someone With A Similar Name:**

If you feel you have suffered as a result of a case of mistaken identity and are in need of assistance, we hope this letter will provide assistance in both understanding and remedying your issue. When a judgment lien is filed, whether it is by a private litigant or by a taxing authority, it is likely placed against real estate owned by the debtor and can even show up on their personal credit report. Liens are generally valid for five years; with the exception of state tax liens that are valid for ten. These liens can show up in your records, because they were filed against someone with the same name or one similar to yours. Unfortunately, you have been affected by this unintended circumstance. This consequence can result in adverse affects to your credit rating and may slow down or even halt the closing of a real estate transaction, until the matter can be resolved.

There are steps you can take to prove that the lien showing up in your record is against a different individual. In an attempt to assist those who have been adversely affected by the filing of judgment liens against a person with a similar name, the Clerk of Courts is providing the attached **AFFIDAVIT REGARDING MISTAKEN IDENTITY**. Fill out the Affidavit with as much distinguishing information as possible, in the lines provided, then have it notarized.

In the case that a private litigant filed the lien(s), the Clerk of Courts will file the Affidavit for record without charge. If the lien(s) have been filed by the State of Ohio, the Ohio Attorney General's Office will need to get involved. For whom to discuss specifically identified liens, please contact:

**Taxation (TAX)-Assistant Attorney General**  
*Marcia Macon-Bruce* at (614) 466-8459

Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC)-Assistant Attorney General  
*James Evans* at (614) 466-8674

Department of Job and Family Services fka Bureau of Employment Services  
(OBES/ODJFS)-Assistant Attorney General *Joseph Schwade*  
\*Paralegal *Brian Jordan* at (614) 995-4331,

or mail the original Affidavit (making a copy for your records) to:

Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Collections Enforcement Section  
150 East Gay Street, 21st Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Please make sure to direct it to the appropriate person. Once the information is received and reviewed, the Ohio Attorney General's Office will provide you with a Notice, releasing you from any responsibility of the lien(s), which do not belong to you. You will then need to file it with the Clerk of Courts and/or mail a copy to the three major credit bureaus.

The Affidavit form is being provided as a courtesy to assist anyone affected by this awkward issue. It is our understanding that most real estate title examiners and credit agencies will accept the Affidavit or Notice as sufficient evidence to clear your credit or title blemish. However, we cannot guarantee that additional information or paper work may be required.

