



**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Deed Theft

PURPOSE: To receive testimony regarding the practice of deed theft, its enforcement across the state, and any legislation needed to protect vulnerable homeowners

Thursday, October 27, 2022
10 a.m.
Senate Hearing Room
250 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York

Web Link: <https://www.nysenate.gov/events>

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Deed theft, or stealing the title of a house, also known as title fraud, is a predatory practice targeting rapidly gentrifying communities, especially communities of color. The City of New York received around 3,000 complaints about deed theft between 2014 and 2019, 45% of which came from Brooklyn. Often the practice involves forging a homeowner's signature on documents without their knowledge or tricking them into signing over their property under false claims of financial relief.

Despite the important work of the Office of the Attorney General to raise awareness of this criminal activity, current law does not adequately protect homeowners who are caught up in the web of scammers looking to steal their homes.

Through this hearing, the Committee will receive firsthand public testimony from victims of deed theft or title fraud, government entities tasked with deed theft enforcement, and community and legal service organizations that are on the ground protecting New Yorkers.

**Senator Brian Kavanagh
Chair,
Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development**

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Testimony will be taken only upon approval by the Committee Chair. Individuals who have been invited to present testimony at the public hearing on Deed Theft are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and e-mail a copy of planned testimony. Individuals invited to participate will be notified within 48 hours of the hearing. All replies and draft testimony submissions must be e-mailed to:

Hally Chu, Housing Committee Director
Office of Senator Brian Kavanagh
hchu.nysenate@gmail.com
(212) 298-5565

- I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to five of minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

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- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

ALL INFORMATION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED:

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____