How do I research property or get a copy of a document?

You may come in our office during regular hours and someone will assist you. Please know the name of the person who owns the property or the book and page of the document. You may also search our public records online if the document was recorded from 1971 to the present. Not all records for this time frame are available online. If you know the book and page of the document, you may send in a request through the mail. Please note that we can provide only minimal research assistance. An attorney must be consulted in order to conduct a proper title search of real estate.

What form of payment is accepted and what are the recording fees for documents?

Please see our <u>recording fees table</u> for information. Checks should be made out to Pickens County or Pickens County Register of Deeds. We also accept cash.

What documents can I look up at the Register of Deeds office?

The Register of Deeds records deeds, mortgages, powers of attorney, plats, easements, mechanics liens, state and federal tax liens, mortgage satisfactions and other documents pertaining to real property only. We **do not** have mobile home title information. Mobile homes are considered personal property and titles can be obtained through the SC Department of Motor Vehicles. We also **do not** have access to Birth Certificates and Death Certificates. These documents are available only from SCDHEC (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) You can access their information at http://www.scdhec.gov/VitalRecords/

What information do I need before researching a title?

You will need the name of the person who currently owns or previously owned the property or the book and page of the deed. If you only know the address of the property, please refer to the Tax Assessor's website (<u>Click here</u>.) or visit their office for additional information.

Can I look up documents online?

Yes, you may view a scanned image of documents online if they are available. Deeds are available from December 1986 to the present. While other documents are available, not all are imaged and accessible online. We are in the process of back scanning documents to make more available online and will update our records as documents are scanned. To search for a document online, click here.

Where is the ROD office located?

Our office is located at the Pickens County Administration Building at 222 McDaniel Avenue B-5 Pickens SC 29671.

What do I need to bring to record a document?

We require the original document with original signatures for all documents. Also bring a check or cash for the recording fee and a self addressed stamped envelope if you want the original mailed back to you if you choose not to wait.

Will I get my original document back?

Yes, we no longer keep a paper copy of documents brought in for recording. When you bring in your document to be recorded and it is processed we will give it immediately back to you. No more waiting for the document to be mailed back to you. If a document is mailed to us we will process it and return it in the next days' mail.

Can I mail in my document for recording?

Yes, we accept documents by mail. Please include a cover letter with your name and phone number in case we need to contact you, a self addressed stamped envelope so we can return the document to you, and a check made payable to Pickens County Register of Deeds.

What if I find an error in the records?

We gratefully and graciously accept your help in finding errors in our online public records. We have done our best to eliminate and prevent errors but occasionally one does occur. Please contact us and we will correct the problem as soon as it is brought to our attention.

Can I get forms of documents at the ROD?

No, we are unable to provide forms to the public or offer legal advice. We suggest that you contact an attorney with any legal needs.

Where can I go to receive legal advice?

We always suggest that you speak with a real estate attorney concerning legal questions. The South Carolina Bar Association sponsors a free answering service on Tuesday - Thursday afternoons (888-321-3644). They will answer questions on everything except criminal law questions.

You may also be able to get help from the <u>South Carolina Legal Services</u> Agency.