

ALTA NEWS

**AMERICAN
LAND TITLE
ASSOCIATION**

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Immediate Release

American Land Title Association Approves Updated Statement Regarding Cost of Public Records

Washington, D.C., Nov. 2, 2011 — The American Land Title Association’s Board of Governors approved an enhanced position statement regarding the cost of public records during its Annual Convention held Oct. 12-15 in Charleston, S.C.

“ALTA has updated its position statement on the cost of accessing public records. Our current statement specifically addresses circumstances where the public official has engaged a third-party vendor to perform a portion of the official’s duties,” said Michelle Korsmo, ALTA’s chief executive officer. “We continue to support the policy that the public records belong to the citizenry and should be available at actual cost.”

The enhanced statement reads:

“It is the position of the American Land Title Association that the cost to obtain a reproduction of a public record or document, regardless of format, should be the custodian’s actual out-of-pocket cost to produce the reproduction, regardless of whether the custodian is a public official or a third-party vendor engaged to act as custodian on behalf of the public official.

“Further, it is the position of the American Land Title Association that such reproductions should be provided by the public official (or a third-party vendor engaged to act as custodian on behalf of the public official) to a member of the public to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, and without the imposition of any restrictions regardless of use.”

About ALTA

The [American Land Title Association](http://www.alta.org), founded in 1907, is the national trade association representing more than 4,000 title insurance companies, title agents, independent abstracters, title searchers, and attorneys. With offices throughout the United States, ALTA members conduct title searches, examinations, closings, and issue title insurance that protects real property owners and mortgage lenders against losses from defects in titles.