

Enhanced services: Clerk offers new features in Clerknet 2.1, Online Foreclosure Sales

Online Foreclosure Sales Go Live

Realforeclose, the Clerk's online foreclosure sales website, is live. The process of "foreclosure auctions on the courthouse steps" is a thing of the past—Interested parties located anywhere in the world can log onto their laptops or home pc, register and bid on foreclosed properties in Sarasota County. It is anticipated that web sales will not only benefit the seller— by expanding the bidder pool and increasing exposure to the property— but will cater to buyers by allowing out-of-town bidders the same opportunity to bid on Sarasota County properties as those in town. By mandate, and for the convenience of citizens, the Clerk's office will offer terminals in downtown Sarasota's Public Access office where bidders may look at available properties, and sign onto the system to place their bids. Free training workshops are also available; go to www.SarasotaClerk.com and select the *Realforeclose* link.

ClerkNet 2.1

For attorney users, ClerkNet 2.1 is ready to be unveiled with its next enhancement: As the "*attorney of record*" a new function will give attorneys access to images that are confidential to others. Of course, confidential cases will only be available to counsel actively assigned to the case.

ClerkNet will be replacing the Governet application in the Public Access office locations, both in Sarasota (Historic Courthouse) and Venice (R.L. Anderson Administration Center). For citizens, another new feature in ClerkNet 2.1 will allow additional parties that are affiliated with confidential cases (defendants, for example) access to view case documents, once they are granted electronic access to the information, rather than requesting and waiting for paper files.

For Judges, ClerkNet 2.1 now offers the Clerk the ability to create a judiciary profile, granting Judges full access to all cases, with an unredacted view. This benefit puts electronic access to case files at the fingertips of the judiciary, allowing for quicker and direct access that does not rely upon pulling case files. With the recent reduction in budgets and workforce at the Clerk's office, ClerkNet 2.1 and its benefits couldn't come at a better time.

As always, members of the Clerk's office appreciate the input, patience and support of the Sarasota County Bar Association as we unveil enhanced products and services. Please contact my office at (941) 861-7400 or through www.SarasotaClerk.com if we can be of further assistance.