



December 22, 2024

Reference to Previously Registered Instruments

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Reference to Previously Registered Instruments

Reference Number: CTAS-782

The register may not register any instrument affecting interests in real property, except releases of liens, unless the instrument contains a recital designating the deed, will, court decree or other source from which the grantor received the equitable interest. If the source of equitable interest is a deed or other instrument recorded in the register's office or a will or court decree of record in the county, the type of instrument, office, book and page number of such instrument shall be recited on the instrument offered for registration. If the source of equitable title is inheritance under the laws of intestate succession, then it shall be recited that the grantor took title by inheritance and the last recorded instrument conveying the equitable interest shall be named with the office, book and page number where such instrument is recorded. If no such preceding instrument has been recorded, this must be recited on the instrument. Also, the register may not record an instrument releasing a lien on real property unless it contains a recital designating the type of instrument, office, book and page number of the instrument which created the lien being released. In most cases, the preparer of the instrument is required to enter this information. However, there is an exception to the general rule that the preparer must complete a recital referencing the deed or other recorded instrument wherein the grantor of an instrument received the equitable interest in the real estate. Under this exception, if the deed or other instrument from which the grantor received the equitable interest is received by the register simultaneously with the instrument upon which the recital is required, then the preparer is required to leave blanks in the recital for the book and page number or other appropriate reference and the register is then obligated to enter the appropriate reference after the deed or other instrument has been recorded. T.C.A. § 66-24-110.

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