



**KAREN E. RUSHING**  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
and County Comptroller  
SARASOTA COUNTY

## Clerk **COMMUNICATION**

Karen E. Rushing | Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller  
2000 Main Street P.O. Box 3079 Sarasota, FL | 941. 861. 7400 |

---

**Date:** June 12, 2009  
**FROM:** Karen E. Rushing, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller  
**RE:** **Clerk Adds New Service:  
Realforeclose™ Offers Foreclosure Sales Online**

Karen E. Rushing, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller, is offering *RealForeclose™*, a web-based service that moves sales of Sarasota County foreclosed property out of the courtroom and onto the World Wide Web.

This web-hosted service, available to users with Internet access who register through the site, removes geographical barriers, and offers local properties to a wider audience with the expectation of attracting more bids and a higher number of properties sold. Due to its auction-style format, familiar to bidders on other auction sites, *RealForeclose™* essentially allows a person to be in more than one place at a time, due to the auction site's "proxy bid" feature.

It's no secret that foreclosures continue to affect the Clerk's office, with up to 869 new foreclosure cases filed each month. Knowing that this new method of addressing foreclosure sales through online auctions was available to Clerks in Florida, and due to recent legislation, it was the Clerk's goal to bring this service to Sarasota County.

Placing foreclosure sales online has the potential of a greater benefit to the community: Broadening the pool of buyers—a world-wide audience, no longer limited to just those bidders who can physically be present at the sale in the courtroom—could mean a possible increase in the number of interested bidders, and a higher selling price.

Online sales offer the opportunity to review relevant property information from the comfort of your home, office, or on the road. Bidding is auction style, and you may place your bid at a time that is convenient for you. Due to "proxy bidding" format, familiar to bidders on other auction sites, *RealForeclose™* allows a person to be in more than one place at a time and bids can be automated.

Users will be required to register before placing bids. Training and orientation sessions for bidders will be available, with a training schedule posted on [www.SarasotaClerk.com](http://www.SarasotaClerk.com) after July 1, 2009.

Realauction™ has been used nationwide by government agencies for online auctions of tax lien sales, tax deed applications and foreclosure sales. The Sarasota County Tax Collector also uses this service for tax deed certificate sales.

For more information, please visit [www.sarasota.realforeclose.com](http://www.sarasota.realforeclose.com), on or after July 6, 2009, or the Clerk's website at [www.SarasotaClerk.com](http://www.SarasotaClerk.com).

###