

Press Releases

Press Release on Bank Policy

As some of you may know the Surrogate's Office is responsible for assisting residents in the orderly process of estates after the death of a Union County Resident. As Surrogate of Union County, one of my obligations is to alert residents of potential problems with the processing of residents estates.

Recent events concerning Chase and Wells Fargo Banks compel me to warn residents that their loved ones may confront severe problems when they attempt to manage their deceased loved ones assets at the time of their death. Chase Bank has displayed in the recent past a refusal to follow New Jersey Law and instead follow their own bank instituted policy which adds expense and delay to the orderly processing of the decedents estates. Wells Fargo has acted in a similar manner on many occasions.

I am therefore advising Union County Residents that commencing or continuing a banker-customer relationship with Chase and Wells Fargo Banks may cause several unforeseen impediments with the timely processing of your estate after your death or the death of a loved one.

Please remember this alert when deciding to commence or continue a financial relationship with Chase Bank or Wells Fargo Bank.

The Honorable James S. LaCorte
Surrogate of Union County

Union County Surrogate Warns Residents on EIN Scam

Union County Surrogate James LaCorte cautioned residents to avoid online companies that charge fees of up to \$250 to obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN).

"An EIN must be ordered directly from the Internal Revenue Service, and there is no fee," said Surrogate LaCorte. "I am issuing this warning because it has come to my attention that there are some services advertising on line that they will acquire EIN numbers for you. Some of these unscrupulous operations are charging as much as \$250.00 for this 'service,' which the IRS provides for free."

LaCorte urged residents to be vigilant when ordering an EIN online.

“When you look up EIN on line, the responses that include a small ‘Ad’ box are businesses, and you will be charged a fee,” said LaCorte. “If you go into one of those sites, you will see a fee attached to the submission with the application, which is another indication that it is a business and not the IRS. Take your time in analyzing each website and make certain that when you apply it is directly with the IRS.”

Residents who are applying for an EIN online must visit the official IRS website, [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov), and go to the page titled, “[Apply for an Employer Identification Number \(EIN\) Online](#).”

The full web address for the EIN page is: <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>.

“I am always concerned when the Public is taken advantage of, especially with incidents like this,” said LaCorte. “If you have any concerns please call my office at 908-527-4280.”

LaCorte encouraged residents to inform themselves on the estate process.

“On the Surrogate’s web site under ‘Surrogate Brochures’ you will find a useful brochure on [Gathering and Distributing the Assets of the Estate](#),” he said. “It will explain about EIN numbers, L-8’s & L-9’s, Tax Waivers and information to connect with the State of New Jersey Treasurer and Taxation Division for important information regarding filing taxes and inheritance tax.”