



## Friday Fast Facts September 30th, 2022 Suffolk Security Breach Update

As you may now be aware, on or about September 8, 2022, Suffolk County's computer systems were hacked by Cyber Criminals using ALPHV BlackCat Ransomware. Since that date access to Suffolk County Clerk Real Property Records and Sewer records has been suspended and searches in those offices are not possible. One is also not able to record any deeds, mortgages, or other real property documents in the office of the Suffolk County Clerk.

Abstracts, Incorporated is an authorized issuing agent for all the major title insurers and has continued to close Suffolk County transactions during this difficult time while providing our clients with the most comprehensive title insurance coverage available.

Below find an update received late last evening from the Clerk regarding system restoration.

*The following was issued by the Suffolk County Clerk's SCCO Alert Service:*

*Over the last several days we have been working hard to bring back the applications used to perform title searches. Our IT staff, along with the County IT staff, have worked around the clock to get us to the point where can open our office for searching Monday at 8:00 a.m.*

*We will have roughly 120 terminals available throughout the Clerk's Office for searches to be conducted. At this point we believe all of the programs you are accustomed to using will be available. There are still some issues we are working out through testing which we hope to resolve over time. There are currently two printers available and we are working towards bring additional ones online.*

*What to expect.*

*Please expect the system to be slower than you may be accustomed to. We know this to be an issue and are working in the background to alleviate the issue over time.*

*While we believe there will be sufficient work stations available, in the event there is not, we ask that you be respectful and allow others access when you know the terminal will not be used for a period of time. We understand the demands being placed on you and the amount of work that has accumulated over the last two weeks. It is important we all work together.*

*The building will be open near normal business hours to start as we assess our computer equipment capacity and provide necessary maintenance. It is our goal to increase business hours once we confirm the computer environment can handle the increased volume of use.*

*Your cards will be required to print and you may add funds to them by filling out the attached form and leaving it with the Public Access counter staff. We will add the funds to your cards throughout the day starting Friday so they will be available for use Monday morning. Payments need to be made by check and we can add funds to only one card per check (in the short term). This form will also be available at the counter by the printers.*

*As for recordings and other related filings, our staff will be working towards getting our systems up to once again provide those services. I do not have any timeframe that can be provided but please be assured we are working as hard and fast as possible to get those functions up and running soon. We will provide further details as we progress.*

*We appreciate your patience as we work through this difficult and unprecedented situation. We are sure by working collectively and with respect for one another we will get through this period and return to "normal" in due course.*

Since recordings are still not being processed, Abstracts, Incorporated will continue to protect its clients by paying all NYS Transfer taxes in a timely manner through the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance's Office in Albany and by submitting documents to the Suffolk County Clerk's "dated recording bins" which have been established to facilitate orderly priority recording as soon as document recordation resumes.

We will continue to provide updates as the situation changes.

Thank you for your support.