

**To the Family Head or Spouse
Colonias and Subdivisions Title Survey
Texas.**

January 2012

Dear Resident,

This survey is being conducted by The Law School and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin on behalf of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the Texas Legislature. The purpose of the survey is to collect data about how homeowners obtain title to their land in Texas colonias in seven border counties (Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Webb, Maverick, Val Verde and El Paso), as well as a small number of neighborhoods in Central Texas.

As you may know, having clear title is an important eligibility requirement for homeowners to receive home improvement and rebuilding assistance, especially for disaster relief efforts. With your collaboration, this study will help us better understand what kinds of title problems residents in your community face, and what kinds of laws and policies could be changed to help residents and their families obtain clear title.

Your neighborhood is one of only 4-5 colonias selected at random from all of the colonias in your County. In order for our project to be successful, it is very important that we obtain as many survey responses as possible. Thus, we very much hope you will agree to participate in this survey by responding to our interviewer's questions today, or alternatively, by completing the attached mail survey and returning it to us in the pre-paid envelope. If you were one of the residents who was personally interviewed this month by a university representative during the distribution of these surveys, then there is no need to also complete the enclosed mail survey.

Your participation in this survey is entirely voluntary. All information you provide will be treated with **complete confidentiality. The information will be read only by the university researchers.** The information and data that you provide will be used to create general statistical analyses relating to title and property transactions—the information you provide will never be linked to you or your family. You will not be identified individually as having participated in the study.

We estimate that the survey will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. We ask that it be filled out by one of the heads of the household (whether male or female). You may skip any question that you prefer not to answer, but please indicate that you have done so by writing the letters PNA for "Prefer Not to Answer". We have included a pre-paid envelope that you may use to return the survey free of charge. Please mail the survey so that it **arrives in our hands by the end of January**. However, it would be especially helpful if you could complete the survey within the next 24-48 hours. At the end of the survey, please indicate your address and, if you would be so kind, your phone number (or email) in case we have a question or would like to follow up with you about one of your comments.

Thank you very much for your participation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the university directors of the survey. Our names and contact information are included at the bottom of this cover letter.

Sincerely,

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