

ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas/Clerk of Orphans' Court

Adams County, Pennsylvania

For the Period

January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018

April 2020



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018
Facebook: Pennsylvania Auditor General
Twitter: @PAAuditorGen
www.PaAuditor.gov

EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
AUDITOR GENERAL

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable C. Daniel Hassell
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue
Harrisburg, PA 17128

We have examined the accompanying statements of receipts and disbursements (Statements) of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas/Clerk of Orphans' Court, Adams County, Pennsylvania (County Officer), for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018, pursuant to the requirements of Sections 401(b) and 401(d) of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S. § 401(b) and § 401(d). The county office's management is responsible for presenting these statements in accordance with the criteria set forth in Note 1. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Statements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Statements are presented in accordance with the criteria described above, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the statements of receipts and disbursements. The nature, timing and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Statements, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are mandated by Sections 401(b) and 401(d) of *The Fiscal Code* to audit the accounts of each county officer to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported and promptly remitted. *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States include attestation engagements as a separate type of audit. An attestation engagement performed pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards* involves additional standards that exceed the standards provided by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Accordingly, this attestation engagement complies with both *Government Auditing Standards* and Sections 401(b) and 401(d) of *The Fiscal Code*.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

In our opinion, the Statements referred to above, for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018, is presented in accordance with the criteria set forth in Note 1, in all material respects.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report all deficiencies that are considered to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control; fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws or regulations that have a material effect on the Statements; and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance; noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and abuse that has a material effect on the Statements. We are also required to obtain and report the views of responsible officials concerning the findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as any planned corrective actions. We performed our examination to express an opinion on whether the Statements are presented in accordance with the criteria described above and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on internal control over reporting on the Statements or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over reporting on the Statements was for the limited purpose of expressing an opinion on whether the Statements are presented in accordance with the criteria described above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over reporting on the Statements that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our engagement we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of the County Office's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of Statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our engagement, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

The purpose of this report is to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported and promptly remitted. This report is not suitable for any other purposes.

We appreciate the courtesy extended by the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas/Clerk of Orphans' Court, Adams County, to us during the course of our examination. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Bureau of County Audits at 717-787-1363.



Eugene A. DePasquale
Auditor General

April 10, 2020

CONTENTS

Page

Financial Section:

Statements Of Receipts And Disbursements:

Clerk Of The Court Of Common Pleas	1
Clerk Of Orphans' Court.....	2
Notes To The Statements Of Receipts And Disbursements	3
Report Distribution	6

CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
ADAMS COUNTY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

Receipts:

Department of Transportation		
Title 75 Fines	\$	397,526
Department of Revenue Court Costs		97,437
Crime Victims' Compensation Costs		208,881
Crime Commission Costs/Victim Witness Services Costs		144,041
Domestic Violence Costs		20,005
Emergency Medical Services Fines		16,739
DUI - ARD/EMS Fees		22,242
CAT/MCARE Fund Surcharges		126,818
Judicial Computer System/Access to Justice Fees		215,040
Offender Supervision Fees		1,130,871
Constable Service Surcharges		3,218
Criminal Laboratory Users' Fees		199,093
Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education Costs		18,617
Substance Abuse Education Costs		183,849
Office of Victims' Services Costs		88,133
Miscellaneous State Fines and Costs		<u>672,554</u>
 Total receipts (Note 2)		 3,545,064
 Disbursements to Commonwealth (Note 3)		 <u>(3,545,064)</u>
 Balance due Commonwealth (County) per settled reports (Note 4)		 -
 Examination adjustments		 <u>-</u>
 Adjusted balance due Commonwealth (County) for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018		 <u><u>\$ -</u></u>

Notes to the Statements of Receipts and Disbursements are an integral part of this report.

CLERK OF ORPHANS' COURT
ADAMS COUNTY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

Receipts:

Marriage License Taxes	\$	1,539
Marriage License Application Surcharges		30,780
Marriage License Declaration Fees		30,780
Judicial Computer System/Access To Justice Fees		<u>9,356</u>
Total Receipts (Note 2)		72,455
Disbursements to Commonwealth (Note 3)		<u>(72,458)</u>
Balance due Commonwealth (County) per settled reports (Note 4)		(3)
Examination adjustments		<u>-</u>
Adjusted balance due Commonwealth (County) for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018	\$	<u><u>(3)</u></u>

Notes to the Statements of Receipts and Disbursements are an integral part of this report.

CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS/
CLERK OF ORPHANS' COURT
ADAMS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

1. Criteria

The Statements of Receipts and Disbursements provide a summary of receipts and disbursements by category. The categories and the amounts of fines, costs, fees, taxes, and surcharges assessed are based on Pennsylvania laws and regulations.

The Statements were prepared in accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. Under this method, only the Commonwealth portion of cash receipts and disbursements are presented, revenues are recognized when received, and expenditures are recognized when paid.

2. Receipts

Clerk Of The Court Of Common Pleas

Receipts are comprised of fines, costs, fees, and surcharges collected on behalf of the Commonwealth. These fines, costs, fees, and surcharges represent collections made on summary and criminal cases filed with the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas' Office.

Clerk Of Orphans' Court

Receipts consist of monies collected on behalf of the Commonwealth. These include monies collected for the following taxes, surcharges, and fees:

- The Marriage License Tax is a \$.50 tax on all marriage licenses filed with the Clerk of Orphans' Court.
- The Marriage License Application Surcharge is a \$10 surcharge imposed on all marriage license applications.
- The Marriage License Declaration Fees is a \$13 fee imposed for the issuance of a marriage license or declaration and for returns thereof to the Department of Health, \$2.50 of which shall be for the use of the county where the license is issued, and \$.50 for the use of the Commonwealth (Marriage License Tax), plus \$10 (Marriage License/Declaration Fees). The statement of receipts and disbursements only reflects the portion collected on behalf of the Commonwealth.

CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS/
 CLERK OF ORPHANS' COURT
 ADAMS COUNTY
 NOTES TO THE STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
 FOR THE PERIOD
 JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

2. Receipts (Continued)

Clerk Of Orphans' Court (Continued)

- Judicial Computer System/Access To Justice Fees represent a \$35.50 fee imposed on all petitions for grant of letters, and first filings in petitions concerning adoptions, incompetents' estates, minors' estates, and inter vivos trusts Effective October 30, 2017, Act 40 and Act 44 increased the fee to \$40.25.

3. Disbursements

Clerk Of The Court Of Common Pleas

Total disbursements are comprised as follows:

Clerk of the Court checks issued to:

Department of Revenue	\$ 3,542,193
Game Commission	373
State Police	578
Department of Public Welfare	1,920
 Total	 \$ 3,545,064

Clerk Of Orphans' Court

Total disbursements are comprised as follows:

Clerk of Orphans' Court checks issued to:

Department of Revenue	\$ 72,458
-----------------------	-----------

CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS/
CLERK OF ORPHANS' COURT
ADAMS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

4. Balance Due Commonwealth (County) For The Period January 1, 2015 To December 31, 2018

Clerk Of The Court Of Common Pleas

This balance reflects a summary of monthly transmittal reports as settled by the Department of Revenue. The balance also reflects a summary of any receipts disbursed directly to other state agencies.

Clerk Of Orphans' Court

This balance reflects a summary of monthly transmittal reports as settled by the Department of Revenue.

5. County Officer Serving During Examination Period

Kelly A. Lawver served as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas/Clerk of Orphans' Court for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018.

CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS/
CLERK OF ORPHANS' COURT
ADAMS COUNTY
REPORT DISTRIBUTION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

This report was initially distributed to:

The Honorable C. Daniel Hassell
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

The Honorable H. Geoffrey Moulton, Jr.
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

Mr. Thomas J. Dougherty
Director
Division of Grants and Standards
Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole

The Honorable Kelly A. Lawver
Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas/
Clerk of Orphans' Court

The Honorable Steven W. Renner
Controller

The Honorable Randy L. Phiel
Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Michael A. George
President Judge

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at www.PaAuditor.gov. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@PaAuditor.gov.