



## State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

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### **Former Probation Officer in East Tennessee Pleads Guilty to Felony Charges Following Comptroller's Investigation**

A former probation officer with the East Tennessee Human Resources Agency (ETHRA) pleaded guilty this week to three felony charges following an investigation by the Comptroller's Division of Municipal Audit and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Ronna Inman was indicted last fall after an investigation found that she stole more than \$5,000 in court fines and fees from the Morristown office where she worked. Auditors also discovered that Inman deliberately falsified ETHRA computer records to conceal her embezzlement scheme.

She pleaded guilty to one count each of theft of property over \$1,000, forgery over \$1,000 and official misconduct.

Inman was placed on two years state probation and ordered to pay \$9,443.50 in restitution to ETHRA for the money she stole and for the costs of the investigation conducted by the Comptroller's office. The guilty pleas came after Inman and her attorney filed a motion for pre-trial diversion requesting that the special prosecutor allow Inman to avoid a conviction on the offenses and have all court records relating to the case expunged within two years. Ms. Inman's request was denied by the special prosecutor and the guilty pleas are now a part of her permanent criminal record.

"Public officials and employees in this state should be held to a higher standard than that of the average citizen," said Dennis Dycus, Director of the Division of Municipal Audit. "Those who abuse the public's trust should not be allowed to steal public funds and then have their criminal records erased as if they never did anything wrong. Hopefully this will send a message to all public officials and employees that there are actual consequences for abusing their positions."

"I am pleased with the work our auditors did in bringing Ms. Inman's crimes to light," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "Unfortunately, there are some people in positions of public trust who believe they can get away with this type of criminal activity because no one will be paying attention. They are wrong. Our auditors are paying attention."

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