



State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

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Auditors Discover Cash Shortage in Franklin County Probation Office

A joint investigation by the Comptroller's Division of County Audit and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has revealed a cash shortage in the Franklin County Probation Office.

Probationers are sometimes required to make payments as part of their judicial sentences. The Franklin County Probation Office is responsible for collecting those payments within the county.

As part of their investigation, the Comptroller's auditors compared copies of receipts issued by the probation office and the office's bank deposits. Between Nov. 25, 2009 and Aug. 30, 2010, receipts exceeded the actual bank deposits by \$7,660.

As a result of the investigation, a Franklin County grand jury indicted Gena R. Hall earlier this month. Hall was serving as the Franklin County probation officer. She resigned from her position the same day she was indicted.

Auditors recommended several changes in the office's bookkeeping procedures, among them using properly-numbered receipts, requiring money to be deposited within three days, properly securing money before it is deposited, comparing receipts to deposits and separating duties so one employee would not be responsible for collecting, accounting for and depositing money.

"I commend investigators from our department and also from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation for their work on this case," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "This is another example of how misuse of public funds could have been avoided through better bookkeeping practices. I am pleased that Franklin County officials have made many of the changes our auditors recommended to correct these problems."

To view the report online, go to:

<http://www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/repository/CA/2010/Franklin%20County%20Probation%20Office.pdf>

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