



State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

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Former Shelby County Register's Office Employee Pleads Guilty to Felony Charges

A former Shelby County Register of Deeds employee pleaded guilty to two counts of felony theft in Shelby County Criminal Court this week.

Regina Daniel, who formerly worked as a cashier at the Register's office, was indicted in July on charges of theft over \$1,000, official misconduct and theft over \$500.

An investigation conducted by the Comptroller's Division of Municipal Audit found that Daniel took at least \$3,038 from the office by entering lower monetary amounts into the office's computer system for checks received, then pocketing the difference between the modified check amounts and the actual check amounts. Daniel recorded fictitious cashed employee checks in the computer records to hide her theft.

Investigators also concluded that Daniel took at least \$980 from Fearnley and Califf, a local law firm. The law firm had submitted blank but signed checks to the office to cover fees needed to register certain documents. Daniel filled out the checks for amounts of money greater than necessary to cover registration costs, then pocketed the difference. She altered computer records to conceal that activity as well.

Daniel was placed on four years of probation and ordered to pay \$8,538 in restitution to the Shelby County Register of Deeds' office. She was also ordered to pay restitution to the law firm and reimburse the Register's office for costs associated with the Comptroller's audit.

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