



COMPTROLLER'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Weakley County Circuit Court Clerk

December 8, 2025

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury



DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS



JASON E. MUMPOWER
Comptroller

December 8, 2025

Weakley County Mayor's Office and
Board of Commissioners
116 West Main Street
Dresden, TN 38225

Weakley County Officials:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the Weakley County Circuit Court Clerk, and the results are presented herein.

Copies of this report are being forwarded to Governor Bill Lee, the State Attorney General, the District Attorney General of the 24th and 27th Judicial Districts, certain state legislators, and various other interested parties. A copy of the report is available for public inspection in our Office and may be viewed at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.E. Mumpower", is written over a faint blue line.

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury

JEM/MLC

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Weakley County Circuit Court Clerk

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated allegations of malfeasance related to expungements granted to an ineligible individual. The investigation was initiated at the request of the District Attorney General of the 24th Judicial District. The investigation was limited to selected records for the period June 9, 2023, through October 16, 2023. The results of the investigation were communicated with the Offices of the District Attorneys General of the 24th Judicial District and 27th Judicial District.

BACKGROUND



The Weakley County Circuit Court (court) is located in Dresden, Tennessee. The Circuit Court Clerk (clerk) is responsible for maintaining records and performing other administrative duties, including the expungement of records pursuant to court orders, for three courts: circuit, general sessions, and juvenile. Expungement is a court-ordered process that removes and destroys public records related to criminal proceedings against eligible individuals, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-32-101.

The clerk was appointed on June 29, 2021, by the Weakley County Commission and served out the former Circuit Court Clerk's unexpired term from July 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022. The clerk was elected on August 4, 2022, beginning a second term on September 1, 2022. The clerk is responsible for processing the orders of the court by filing and maintaining or removing and destroying the appropriate records according to law.

As of July 2023, when an individual applies for expungement, if the individual is convicted of an offense eligible for expungement under Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-32-101(g), they must file a Petition to Expunge Records of Conviction (petition). When the petition is filed with the court, the law requires the clerk to serve the petition on the District Attorney (DA). After review, the DA may submit recommendations to the court, and the DA and petitioner may file evidence with the court related to the petition. If the court determines an individual's offense is eligible for expungement, the DA's office prepares a proposed Order Granting Petition to Expunge Records of Conviction (order). The order is then signed by the DA or Assistant District Attorney (ADA) and the judge. When the judge signs the order, it becomes an official court order, and it is given back to the clerk to be submitted electronically to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) to have the criminal charge(s) removed from the individual's public record.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

1. THE WEAKLEY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK IMPROPERLY SIGNED PETITIONS TO EXPUNGE RECORDS OF CONVICTION FOR AN INELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL

Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-32-101(g) outlines criminal convictions that are eligible to be expunged from an individual's record. Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-32-101(k) explicitly states that an eligible petitioner is "a person who was convicted of no more than two (2) eligible offenses." In addition, Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-32-101(g)(1)(F) states that if an individual was convicted of more than one eligible offense, they are eligible for expungement if the conduct upon which each conviction is based 1) occurred contemporaneously, 2) at the same location, and 3) represented a single continuous criminal episode with a single criminal intent. Only the court can make the eligibility determination.

In June or July 2023, the clerk prepared four petitions for an individual who was convicted of crimes in Weakley, Obion, Henry, and Carroll Counties. Court records also revealed that the individual committed the offenses of forgery over the period of approximately 45 days in the above counties. The clerk admitted to investigators that she signed the individual's name on each of the petitions. Investigators confirmed with officials from the DA's Office for the 27th Judicial District that the clerk was told that the individual did not qualify for expungement due to the multi-county convictions.

On July 20, 2023, the clerk emailed the petitions to the Obion, Henry, and Carroll County Circuit Court clerks (court clerks) and inquired about the clerks' fees to process the conviction expungements. One of the court clerks questioned the eligibility of the individual due to the convictions in multiple counties. After the court clerk's inquiry, the clerk subsequently contacted a supervisor with TBI via email and asked about the individual's eligibility (**Refer to Exhibit 1**).

Exhibit 1

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 2:48 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Expungement Question

If someone was charged across 4 counties in 2006 for Forgery and plead guilty in all 4 counties basically at the same time, can they get all of those expunged or just 3?

The clerk's email to the TBI supervisor inquiring about the individual's eligibility for the expungements

The TBI supervisor informed the clerk that the court(s) must determine if the offenses constitute a single continuous criminal episode and that an individual may only get two offenses expunged. The TBI supervisor also quoted Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-32-101(g)(1)(F) and § 40-32-101(k) (**Refer to Exhibit 2**).

Exhibit 2

>>> [REDACTED] > 8/2/2023 12:25 PM >>>
Hey [REDACTED]

From Legal:

For your question, the court(s) will have to determine if the cases in each of the counties qualify as one offense or multiple offense. This is discussed in Tenn. Code. Ann. 40-32-101(g)(1)(F):

A person who was convicted of more than one (1) of the offenses listed in this subdivision (g)(1), if the conduct upon which each conviction is based occurred contemporaneously, occurred at the same location, represented a single continuous criminal episode with a single criminal intent, and all such convictions are eligible for expunction under this part. The offenses of a person who is an eligible petitioner under this subdivision (g)(1)(F) shall be considered a single offense for the purposes of this section so that the person is eligible for expunction consideration if all other requirements are met.

According to Tenn. Code Ann. 40-32-101(k), a person can only have two offenses expunged. The further restriction on that is that the offenses must be two misdemeanors or one felony and one misdemeanor.

TBI's email response to the clerk inquiring about the eligibility of an individual applying for expungements with convictions in multiple counties

The clerk then informed the court clerk who questioned the individual's eligibility that the TBI supervisor stated the individual's convictions were considered a single criminal episode, and that if the judges agree, the individual would be eligible for expungement (**Refer to Exhibit 3**).

Exhibit 3

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 12:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: RE: Expungement Question

Ok, this is in regard to the expungements I sent and ask about the fee for. I spoke with [REDACTED] at TBI and all of the 4 counties are considered a single criminal episode as the dates are all within the same time frame. She said if the Judges agree he should be eligible for the expungement. [REDACTED]

Email from the clerk to the court clerk who questioned the individual's expungement eligibility

The court clerk's response to the clerk's email confirmed her understanding that TBI stated it was a single criminal episode (**Refer to Exhibit 4**). Because the clerk provided misleading information, the court clerk prepared the order and sent it to the DA's office, where it was ultimately signed by an ADA and the judge.

Exhibit 4

>>> [REDACTED] > 8/9/2023 3:59 PM >>>
I didn't realize it was considered a single criminal episode. It had different dates. Our ADA and Judge will sign off this week. Thank you for clarifying.

The court clerk's email response to the clerk confirming her understanding that TBI stated the individual was eligible for the expungements

After the judge signed the order, it was sent to the TBI, and the expungement was completed. Investigators confirmed that in Weakley County, the order was signed by the judge on June 9, 2023, and was completed by the TBI on June 13, 2023. Investigators discovered that the petition was not served on the DA in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-32-101(g)(3), and the order was not signed by the DA or ADA. In her email, the clerk also told the court clerk that if the judges agree that the offenses were a single criminal episode, the individual should be eligible. Investigators confirmed with the respective judges that they were not aware that the individual had convictions in multiple counties.

Investigators confirmed that the Obion County expungement was signed by the ADA and the judge; however, it was never sent to the TBI. After the improper expungements were discovered, an Agreed Order was filed on October 6, 2023, in Henry County to stop the expungement from being processed. In September and October 2023, motions to set aside petitions to expunge were filed in the two counties where the improper expungements were completed, and investigators confirmed these expungements were reversed.

The petition states that the "petitioner has no other conviction in this or any other jurisdiction other than the one(s) to be expunged." The petition also states, "petitioner further understands that statements made in the petition...are made under penalty of perjury in connection with an official

proceeding.” When the clerk signed the individual’s name on the petitions, she affirmed that the individual had no other convictions. However, investigators determined that the clerk was aware that the individual had convictions in multiple counties when she prepared and signed the petitions.

The clerk submitted her letter of resignation on December 2, 2025, with an effective date of December 31, 2025.

COMPLIANCE DEFICIENCY

Our investigation revealed a deficiency in compliance, which contributed to the clerk’s ability to expunge records of conviction for an ineligible individual. This deficiency included:

Deficiency 1: The clerk failed to comply with state statute when assisting an individual with an expungement application

Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-32-101(g)(3) states that upon the filing of the petition, the clerk shall serve the petition on the DA for that judicial district. The Weakley County order granting petition was signed on June 9, 2023, by the judge, but was not served on the DA. Investigators confirmed that officials in the DA’s office became aware of the expungement on August 28, 2023, when a court clerk from another county informed them that she received a signed petition and order for the individual in her county.

Clerk officials indicated that they have corrected or intend to correct this deficiency.