



COMPTROLLER'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

13th Judicial District Recovery Courts

January 13, 2026

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury



DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS



JASON E. MUMPOWER
Comptroller

January 13, 2026

Putnam County Mayor Randy Porter
and County Commission
300 East Springs Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

Putnam County Officials:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the 13th Judicial District Recovery Courts, 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 13th Judicial District, the District Attorney General appointed *Pro Tem*, 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 "Jason E. Mumpower". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury

JEM/MLC

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

13th Judicial District Recovery Courts

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated allegations of malfeasance related to the 13th Judicial District Drug Recovery Courts. The investigation was initiated after the recovery courts' management identified and reported questionable expenditures. The investigation was limited to selected records for the period October 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024. The District Attorney General for the 13th Judicial District recused himself, and the results of the investigation were communicated with the District Attorneys General Conference, serving as *Pro Tem* in this matter pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-7-106.

BACKGROUND



The 13th Judicial District Recovery Courts (recovery courts) serve the seven counties of the 13th Judicial District of Tennessee: Clay, Cumberland, Dekalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White. The recovery courts are jointly funded by public, charitable contributions, and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The recovery courts allow non-violent felony offenders with substance abuse issues and a high risk of re-offending to obtain treatment while under close judicial, clinical, and probationary supervision. The staff of the recovery courts operate under the supervision of the Putnam County Recovery Court Judge and consists of a Recovery Courts Director (director), Recovery Courts Case Manager (case manager), and a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselor (counselor).

Julie Odom began her position as director in July 2012 and served as director until her resignation on October 28, 2024. While serving as director, Odom was responsible for overseeing the daily operation of the recovery courts, including attending court sessions, working with the District

Attorney General, and completing the reporting duties required by the recovery courts funding sources.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

1. FORMER 13th JUDICIAL DISTRICT RECOVERY COURTS DIRECTOR JULIE ODOM AUTHORIZED RENT ASSISTANCE TOTALING AT LEAST \$8,600 FOR A PARTICIPANT WITH WHOM SHE RESIDED

Former director Julie Odom authorized rent assistance totaling at least \$8,600 for a recovery courts participant with whom she resided. According to the Recovery Courts Policy and Procedures Manual (manual), recovery housing, also known as sober living homes, provides safe, structured living environments for people recovering from substance abuse. The manual further states these homes are self-managed, with residents responsible for paying rent and following established house rules.

A. Odom authorized at least \$7,675 for rent assistance directly to a participant, with whom she resided

The manual states that the recovery courts agree to pay a deposit and two weeks' rent for each participant transitioning from residential treatment to their sober-living home, subject to the availability of funds. Additionally, the manual requires sober living homes to be licensed businesses and provide the recovery courts with a W-9 form. The sober living home must also provide the recovery courts with a dated invoice containing a logo, address, description of service(s), and name of the participant receiving the service(s) described.

Odom authorized at least six check request forms totaling \$7,675 for rent assistance, which were paid directly to a participant with whom she resided. Check request forms were submitted by Odom to the Putnam County Mayor's Office for approval and payment. Of the three locations paid for entirely or in part using either rent assistance or recovery courts funds, none were designated as sober living homes as required by the manual.

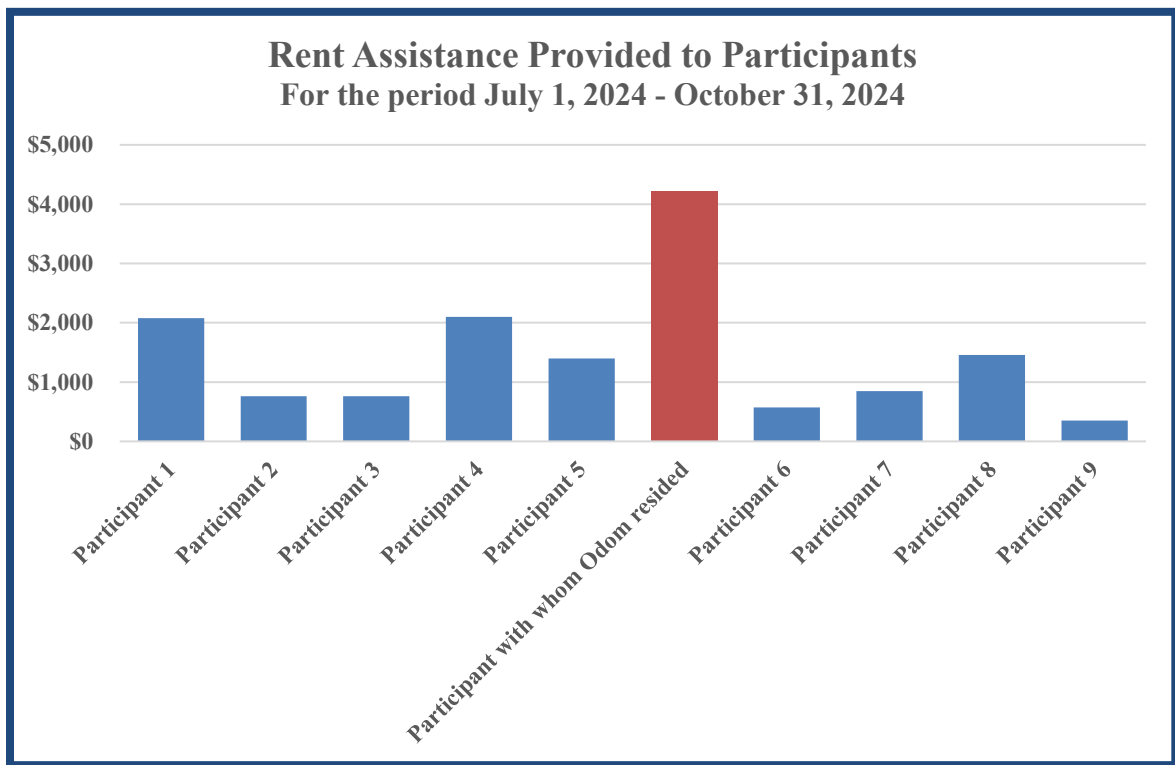
| Rent Assistance Paid Directly to a Participant with whom Julie Odom Resided | |
|--|----------------|
| Description | Amount |
| April 2024 – Rent Reimbursement | \$2,625 |
| May 2024 – Rent Assistance | \$875 |
| June 2024 – Rent Assistance | \$875 |
| August 2024 – Reimbursement for Partial Rent Deposit | \$1,100 |
| September 2024 – Rent Assistance | \$1,100 |
| October 2024 – Rent Assistance | <u>\$1,100</u> |
| Total Rent Assistance Provided | \$7,675 |

B. Odom authorized at least \$925 for rent assistance to a landlord on behalf of a participant with whom she resided

In July 2024, Odom authorized at least \$925 for rent assistance to a residence that was not designated as a sober living home on behalf of a participant with whom she resided. Odom submitted an invoice to the Putnam County Mayor's Office containing a logo, invoice date, amount, and description of service. The invoice's description revealed that the amount of \$925 was for one month's rent. The invoice was paid, resulting in rent paid for the participant with whom she resided.

C. Odom authorized higher rent assistance payments for a participant with whom she resided over other participants

Odom authorized higher rent assistance payments for the participant with whom she resided over other participants. For the period July 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024, other participants only received one or two payments whereas the participant with whom Odom resided received much more in assistance.



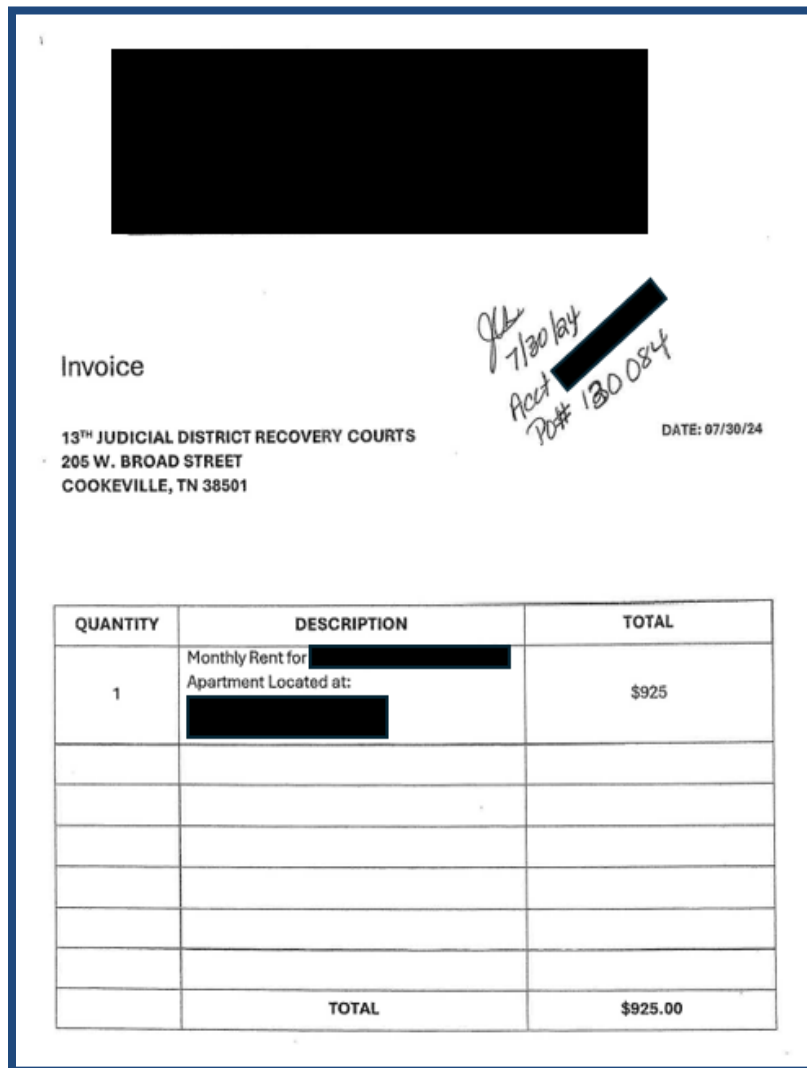
2. FORMER 13th JUDICIAL DISTRICT RECOVERY COURTS DIRECTOR JULIE ODOM PERSONALLY BENEFITED BY SUBMITTING FALSIFIED RECORDS TO THE PUTNAM COUNTY MAYOR'S OFFICE

Odom submitted falsified records to the Putnam County Mayor's Office for rent assistance and reimbursement for a participant with whom she resided.

A. Odom fabricated at least one invoice and one receipt to authorize rent assistance and reimbursement for a participant with whom she resided

In July 2024, Odom submitted an invoice to the Putnam County Mayor's Office for rent reimbursement for a participant with whom she resided. The invoice was created by Odom and contained the landlord entity's logo but reflected an incorrect monthly rent amount and lacked an invoice number (**Refer to Exhibit 1**).

Exhibit 1



Invoice

13TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT RECOVERY COURTS
205 W. BROAD STREET
COOKEVILLE, TN 38501

DATE: 07/30/24

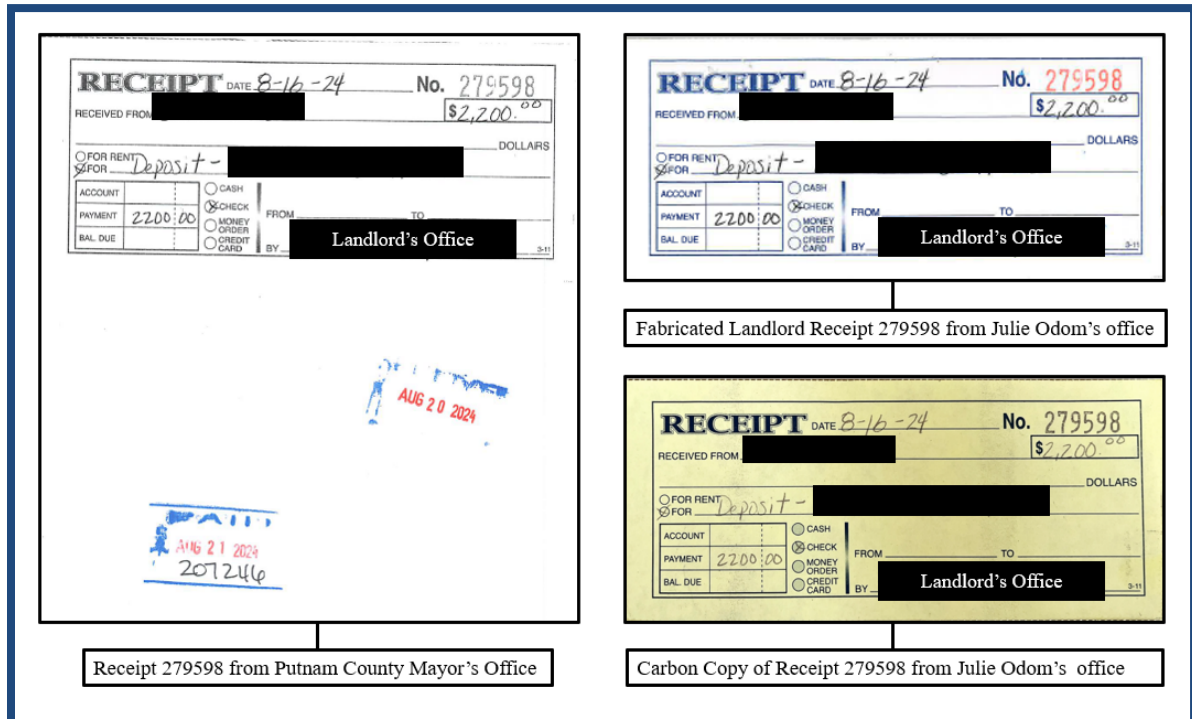
| QUANTITY | DESCRIPTION | TOTAL |
|----------|--|----------|
| 1 | Monthly Rent for [REDACTED] Apartment Located at: [REDACTED] | \$925 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | TOTAL | \$925.00 |

An invoice fabricated by Odom

On August 16, 2024, Odom submitted a receipt purported to be from the recovery courts participant's landlord's office to the Putnam County Mayor's Office. However, the rental agreement for which the falsified receipt was submitted was in Odom's name. Odom used the recovery courts' receipt book to create a receipt for the participant's rent as if the receipt were from the participant's landlord. The receipt book containing the carbon copy of the

falsified receipt was found in Odom's recovery courts office. Odom authorized a total of \$2,200 during September 2024 and October 2024 as rent assistance to the participant. A total of \$3,300 was disbursed to the participant with whom Odom resided, while she was also listed as the tenant on the rental agreement. As a result, \$1,100, half of the rent deposit, was provided to the participant with whom she resided (**Refer to Exhibit 2**).

Exhibit 2



RECEIPT DATE 8-16-24 No. 279598
 RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED] \$2,200.00
 FOR RENT Deposit - [REDACTED] DOLLARS
 ACCOUNT [REDACTED] CASH [] CHECK [x] MONEY ORDER [] CREDIT CARD []
 PAYMENT 2200.00 FROM [REDACTED] TO [REDACTED]
 BAL DUE [REDACTED] BY Landlord's Office

RECEIPT DATE 8-16-24 No. 279598
 RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED] \$2,200.00
 FOR RENT Deposit - [REDACTED] DOLLARS
 ACCOUNT [REDACTED] CASH [] CHECK [x] MONEY ORDER [] CREDIT CARD []
 PAYMENT 2200.00 FROM [REDACTED] TO [REDACTED]
 BAL DUE [REDACTED] BY Landlord's Office

RECEIPT DATE 8-16-24 No. 279598
 RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED] \$2,200.00
 FOR RENT Deposit - [REDACTED] DOLLARS
 ACCOUNT [REDACTED] CASH [] CHECK [x] MONEY ORDER [] CREDIT CARD []
 PAYMENT 2200.00 FROM [REDACTED] TO [REDACTED]
 BAL DUE [REDACTED] BY Landlord's Office

RECEIPT DATE 8-16-24 No. 279598
 RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED] \$2,200.00
 FOR RENT Deposit - [REDACTED] DOLLARS
 ACCOUNT [REDACTED] CASH [] CHECK [x] MONEY ORDER [] CREDIT CARD []
 PAYMENT 2200.00 FROM [REDACTED] TO [REDACTED]
 BAL DUE [REDACTED] BY Landlord's Office

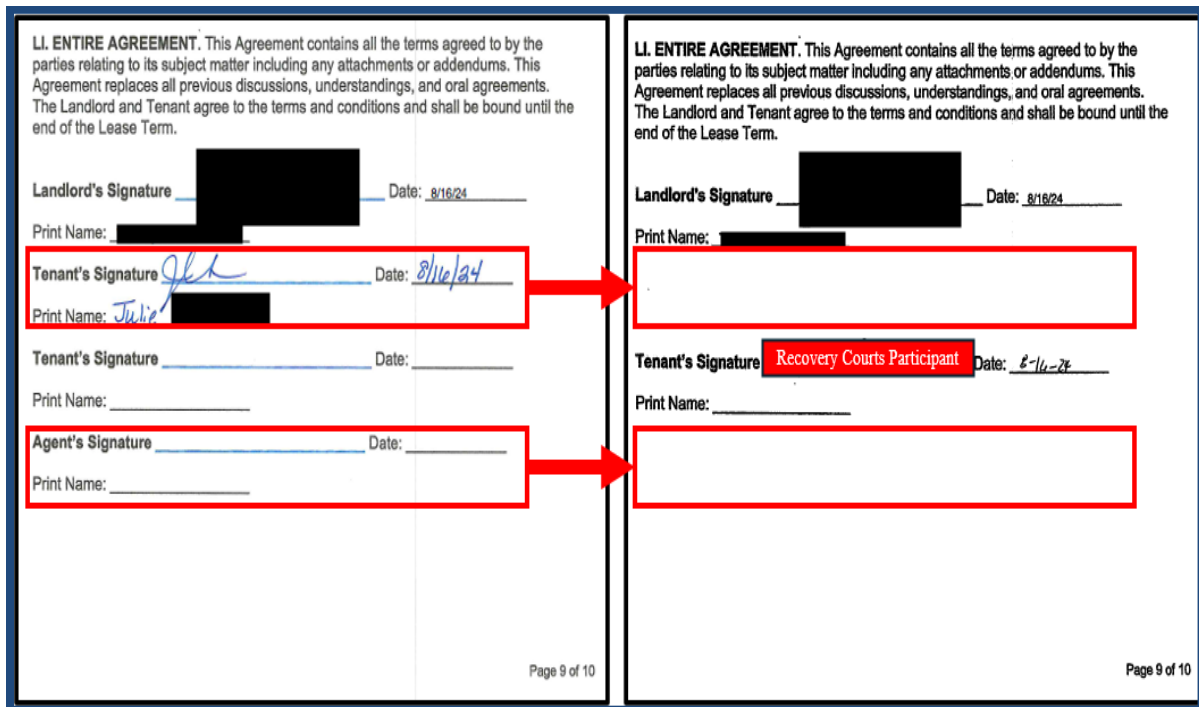
Receipt 279598 from Putnam County Mayor's Office
 Fabricated Landlord Receipt 279598 from Julie Odom's office
 Carbon Copy of Receipt 279598 from Julie Odom's office

The falsified landlord's receipt submitted to the Putnam County Mayor's Office (left), falsified landlord receipt found in Odom's office (top right), carbon copy of the same receipt found in the generic receipt book in Odom's office (bottom right)

- B. Odom created a falsified copy of a rent agreement by replacing her name with the name of the participant with whom she resided, allowing the participant to receive rent assistance and reimbursement**

Odom entered into a rent agreement as the sole tenant with a landlord. Odom subsequently falsified a copy of the rent agreement by replacing her name with a participant's name, thus allowing the participant with whom she resided to receive rent assistance and reimbursement from the recovery courts. In August 2024, the falsified rent agreement showing the participant as the tenant was submitted to the recovery courts designated as a non-sober living home and later submitted to the Putnam County Mayor's Office. The falsified rent agreement was then submitted to the recovery courts for reimbursement (**Refer to Exhibit 3**).

Exhibit 3



The image shows two side-by-side copies of a rent agreement form, labeled 'Page 9 of 10'. The left document is the 'original rent agreement' and the right is the one 'obtained from the Putnam County Mayor's Office'. Red boxes and arrows highlight differences in the signature sections.

Left Document (Original):

- LI. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement contains all the terms agreed to by the parties relating to its subject matter including any attachments or addendums. This Agreement replaces all previous discussions, understandings, and oral agreements. The Landlord and Tenant agree to the terms and conditions and shall be bound until the end of the Lease Term.
- Landlord's Signature: [Redacted] Date: 8/16/24
- Print Name: [Redacted]
- Tenant's Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 8/16/24
- Print Name: Julie [Redacted]
- Tenant's Signature: _____ Date: _____
- Print Name: _____
- Agent's Signature: _____ Date: _____
- Print Name: _____

Right Document (Putnam County Mayor's Office):

- LI. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement contains all the terms agreed to by the parties relating to its subject matter including any attachments or addendums. This Agreement replaces all previous discussions, understandings, and oral agreements. The Landlord and Tenant agree to the terms and conditions and shall be bound until the end of the Lease Term.
- Landlord's Signature: [Redacted] Date: 8/16/24
- Print Name: [Redacted]
- Tenant's Signature: [Redacted] Date: 8/16/24
- Print Name: [Redacted]
- Tenant's Signature: Recovery Courts Participant Date: 8-16-24
- Print Name: _____

The original rent agreement (left) compared to the rent agreement obtained from the Putnam County Mayor's Office (right)

3. THE 13TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT RECOVERY COURTS AUTHORIZED RENT ASSISTANCE TO NON-SOBER LIVING HOMES

The 13th Judicial District Recovery Courts authorized rent assistance to non-sober living homes. Per the manual,

Recovery housing, also known as sober living homes, provides safe and structured living environments for people recovering from substance abuse problems... Sober living homes offer an alternative living option where recovering addicts can learn valuable daily living skills within a stable, recovery-focused living environment... Sober living environments rather operate as self-run facilities where residents must pay their own rent and abide by certain house rules.

Throughout the investigative period, investigators noted two sober living homes utilized by the recovery courts. However, Odom authorized rent assistance to multiple participants, including the participant with whom she resided, for non-sober living homes, which did not meet the requisite criteria for sober living homes as provided for in the manual.

On January 8, 2026, the Putnam County Grand Jury indicted Julie Ann Odom on three counts of Official Misconduct, one count of Theft over \$2,500, one count of Criminal Simulation, and two counts of Forgery.

The charges and allegations contained in the indictment are merely accusations of criminal conduct, and not evidence. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and convicted through due process of law.

[13th Judicial District Recovery Courts Investigation Exhibit](#)