



Martha S. Mavredes, CPA  
Auditor of Public Accounts

# Commonwealth of Virginia

## *Auditor of Public Accounts*

P.O. Box 1295  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

February 12, 2018

The Honorable Onzlee Ware  
Chief Judge  
County of Roanoke Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
P. O. Box 986  
Roanoke, VA 24005-0986

Audit Period: July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017  
Court System: County of Roanoke  
Judicial District: Twenty-Third

We are performing a statewide audit of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts. During our review of this court, we conducted certain audit procedures, as we deemed appropriate.

Management of this court is an important part of the court's accountability, since you are responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls and complying with applicable laws and regulations. During our review, we noted certain matters that required management's attention and corrective action. These matters included:

### **Properly Bill and Collect Court Costs**

Repeat: Yes

The Clerk and her staff did not properly bill and collect court costs. In four cases tested, we noted the following errors.

- In one appealed case, court costs totaling \$420 were not certified to the Circuit Court.
- In one case, the defendant was overcharged \$120 in court costs.
- In one case, the defendant was not refunded a payment of \$91 in court costs after appealing the case to the Circuit Court.
- In one case, a defendant was not billed for \$10 in court costs.

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The Clerk and her staff should correct the specific cases noted above and institute a more diligent system of review to minimize the likelihood of billing errors going undetected. In all cases, the Clerk should bill and collect court costs in accordance with the Code of Virginia.

We acknowledge the cooperation extended to us by the Clerk and her staff during this engagement.

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

MSM: clj

cc: The Honorable Leisa K. Ciaffone, Judge  
Debra Barbour, Clerk  
Paul F. DeLosh, Director of Judicial Services  
Supreme Court of Virginia