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Auditor of Public Accounts

Commonwealth of Virginia

Auditor of Public Accounts

P.O. Box 1295
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April 29, 2020

The Honorable George D. Varoutsos
Chief Judge
County of Arlington Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Audit Period: July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019
Court System: County of Arlington
Judicial District: Seventeenth

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: No

The Clerk and her staff did not properly bill and collect court costs. In 34 cases tested, we noted the following errors.

- For six local cases, the Clerk did not bill the locality for public defender fees of \$720.
- In three cases, defendants were not charged \$360 in attorney costs.

The Clerk and her staff should correct the specific cases noted above and should establish a 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 Code of Virginia.

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

Martha S. Mavredes
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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cc: The Honorable Robin L. Robb, Judge
Ronikka Lartey, Clerk
Paul F. DeLosh, Director of Judicial Services
Supreme Court of Virginia