

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

District Court 21-2-01
Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania
For the Period
January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021

June 2023



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



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**TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Pat Browne
Acting Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue
Harrisburg, PA 17128

We have conducted a compliance audit of the District Court 21-2-01, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania (District Court), for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401(c) of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S. § 401(c).

The objective of the audit was to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported, and promptly remitted and to provide a report to the Department of Revenue to allow the Department of Revenue to state and settle the district court's account. Our audit was limited to areas related to the objective identified above and was not conducted, nor was it required to be, in accordance with Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

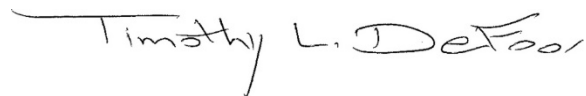
The district court is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance of compliance with state laws and regulations applicable to the collection of moneys on behalf of the Commonwealth, including whether they have been correctly assessed, reported, and promptly remitted. The district court is also responsible for complying with those laws and regulations. It is our responsibility to perform procedures to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objective. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions.

Based on our audit procedures, we conclude that, for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021, the district court, in all significant respects, complied with state laws and regulations applicable to the collection of moneys on behalf of the Commonwealth, including whether they have been correctly assessed, reported, and promptly remitted.

This report includes a summary of the district court's receipts and disbursements of funds collected on behalf of the Commonwealth (summary). We obtained data representing the district court's receipts and disbursements from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, which obtains data from each of the Commonwealth's district courts and used the data to create the summary in the format required by the Department of Revenue. We also evaluated the accuracy of the data as part of our audit to conclude on the district court's compliance with certain state laws and regulations as described in the previous paragraph. Any adjustments that we considered necessary based on our audit work are disclosed in the *Audit Adjustments* line of the summary; however, the scope of our audit does not include the issuance of an opinion on the accuracy of the amounts reported in the summary.

The purpose of this report is to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported, and promptly remitted and to provide a report to the Department of Revenue to allow the Department of Revenue to state and settle the district court's account. This report is not suitable for any other purposes.

The contents of this report were discussed with the management of the district court. We appreciate the courtesy extended by the District Court 21-2-01, Schuylkill County, to us during the course of our audit. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Bureau of County Audits at 717-787-1363.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy L. DeFoor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left of the first letter.

Timothy L. DeFoor
Auditor General
May 8, 2023

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DISTRICT COURT 21-2-01
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021

The Department of Auditor General is mandated by Article IV, Section 401(c) of *The Fiscal Code* (Act of April 9, 1929, P.L.343, No. 176), to audit the accounts of each district court to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported, and promptly remitted.

District Court receipts are comprised of fines, costs, fees, and surcharges collected on behalf of the Commonwealth. These fines, costs, fees, and surcharges represent collections made on traffic, non-traffic, civil, and criminal cases filed with the District Court.

Total disbursements during the audit period are comprised as follows:

District Court checks issued to:

Department of Revenue	<u>\$ 1,485,605</u>
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This balance reflects the summary of monthly transmittal reports as settled by the Department of Revenue.

Christina E. Hale served at District Court 21-2-01 for the period January 1, 2018 to October 2, 2020.

Various Senior Judges served at District Court 21-2-01 for the period October 4, 2020 to November 17, 2021.

Edward J. Tarantelli served at District Court 21-2-01 for the period November 22, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

The summary of receipts and disbursements on the following page provides a summary of receipts and disbursements by category. The categories and the amounts of fines, costs, fees, and surcharges assessed are based on Pennsylvania laws and regulations.

The summary was prepared in accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. Under this method, only the Commonwealth portion of cash receipts and disbursements are presented, revenues are recognized when received, and expenditures are recognized when paid.

DISTRICT COURT 21-2-01
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021

Receipts:

Department of Transportation		
Title 75 Fines	\$	297,890
Motor Carrier Road Tax Fines		75
Overweight Fines		5,729
Commercial Driver Fines		1,550
Littering Law Fines		250
Child Restraint Fines		2,116
Department of Revenue Court Costs		189,253
Crime Victims' Compensation Bureau Costs		13,320
Crime Commission Costs/Victim Witness Services Costs		9,514
Domestic Violence Costs		3,521
Department of Agriculture Fines		4,896
Emergency Medical Service Fines		91,617
CAT/MCARE Fund Surcharges		241,896
Judicial Computer System Fees		84,994
Access to Justice Fees		45,517
Criminal Justice Enhancement Account Fees		5,065
Judicial Computer Project Surcharges		125,198
Constable Service Surcharges		10,539
Miscellaneous State Fines and Costs		<u>352,665</u>
 Total receipts		 1,485,605
 Disbursements to Commonwealth		 <u>(1,485,605)</u>
 Balance due Commonwealth (District Court) per settled reports		 -
 Audit adjustments		 <u>-</u>
 Adjusted balance due Commonwealth (District Court) for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021	\$	 <u><u>-</u></u>

DISTRICT COURT 21-2-01
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
SUMMARY OF PRIOR AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021

Summary Of Prior Audit Recommendations

During our prior audit, we recommended that the district court:

- Review the tickler reports for warrants and DL-38s daily and take appropriate action as required by the Manual. We further recommended that the court review warrant control reports and notify policy or other officials to return warrants that are unserved for 60 days (120 days as of December 2016) for summary traffic and non-traffic cases as recommended by the Manual.

During our current audit, we noted that the district court complied with our recommendations.

DISTRICT COURT 21-2-01
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
REPORT DISTRIBUTION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021

This report was initially distributed to:

Pat Browne
Acting Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

The Honorable H. Geoffrey Moulton, Jr.
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

The Honorable Edward J. Tarantelli
Magisterial District Judge

The Honorable Barron L. Hetherington
Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Sharyn Yackenchick
Controller

Ms. Mary S. Timpany, Esq.
District Court Administrator

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at www.PaAuditor.gov. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@PaAuditor.gov.