



DISTRICT ATTORNEY DISTRICT 12

Statutory Report

For the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023

Cindy Byrd, CPA

State Auditor & Inspector

MATT BALLARD, DISTRICT ATTORNEY DISTRICT 12

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DRUG POSSESSION AND DIVERSION PROGRAM
DRUG ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM

FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023



Cindy Byrd, CPA | State Auditor & Inspector

2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 123, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 | 405.521.3495 | www.sai.ok.gov

September 23, 2024

Matt Ballard, District Attorney District 12 Rogers County Courthouse Claremore, Oklahoma 74017

Transmitted herewith is the statutory report for the District Attorney of District 12, Rogers, Mayes, and Craig County, Oklahoma (the District) for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

A report of this type is critical in nature; however, we do not intend to imply that there were not commendable features in the present accounting and operating procedures of the District.

The goal of the State Auditor and Inspector is to promote accountability and fiscal integrity in state and local government. Maintaining our independence as we provide this service to the taxpayers of Oklahoma is of utmost importance.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the assistance and cooperation extended to our office during our engagement.

Sincerely,

CINDY BYRD, CPA

OKLAHOMA STATE AUDITOR & INSPECTOR

MATT BALLARD, DISTRICT ATTORNEY DISTRICT 12 STATUTORY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023

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INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

BOGUS CHECK RESTITUTION PROGRAM

The bogus check program was created by the Oklahoma Legislature in 1982 as a special type of deferred prosecution program and every district attorney is required to operate a bogus check program. The program provides an alternative way to handle bogus check cases without any additional cost to courts, prosecutors, or the state prison system. The primary emphasis of the program is collecting restitution for the victim of the crime, rather than punishing the offender.

Bogus checks are a significant cost to business, a cost that is passed on to the consumer and paid by all citizens and taxpayers in the state. The program offers a manner to address criminal conduct without sending many offenders to state prisons.

SUPERVISION FEE AND SUPERVISION FEE STATE REMITTANCE PROGRAMS

The district attorney supervision fee program was created by the Oklahoma Legislature in 2005 as an alternative from supervision by the Department of Corrections. When the court imposes a deferred or a suspended sentence for any offense and does not order supervision by the Department of Corrections, the offender shall be required to pay the district attorney a monthly supervision fee. However, the legislation provides that in hardship cases, the district attorney shall expressly waive all or part of the fee.

Beginning on July 1, 2019, a supervision fee state remittance account was created pursuant to 22 O.S. § 991d (2) amended as follows, "Any fees collected by the district attorney pursuant to this paragraph shall be deposited in the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury." Fees collected at the district offices are deposited monthly with the county treasurer and transferred monthly for annual budgeted appropriations at the state level.

991 FEE AND 991 FEE STATE REMITTANCE PROGRAMS

The district attorney 991 fee program was created by the Oklahoma Legislature in 2013. If the offender is *not* ordered supervision by the district attorney (as described above) "the offender shall be required to pay a fee to the district attorney's office during the first two (2) years of probation to compensate the district for the costs incurred during the prosecution of the offender and for the additional work of verifying the compliance of the offender with the rules and conditions of his or her probation." However, the legislation provides the district attorney may waive any part of this requirement in the best interests of justice.

Beginning on July 1, 2019, a 991 fee state remittance account was created pursuant to 22 O.S. § 991a (1)(ii) amended as follows, "Any fees collected by the district attorney pursuant to this paragraph shall be deposited in the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury." Fees collected at the district offices are deposited monthly with the county treasurer and transferred monthly for annual budgeted appropriations at the state level.

MATT BALLARD, DISTRICT ATTORNEY DISTRICT 12 STATUTORY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023

RESTITUTION AND DIVERSION PROGRAM

The restitution and diversion program was created by the Oklahoma Legislature in 2001 as a special type of deferred prosecution program. The legislation required that each district attorney create such a program. The purpose of the program is to allow the district attorney the discretion to divert criminal complaints involving property crimes from criminal court and to collect restitution for victims.

The program allows the district attorney's office to receive, disburse, and monitor victim restitution payments. The program offers an alternative way to address criminal conduct.

DRUG POSSESSION AND DIVERSION PROGRAM

The drug possession and diversion program was created by the Oklahoma Legislature in 2016 as a special type of deferred prosecution program. This law allows district attorneys to enter into a written agreement with a defendant to defer prosecution of a charge for the possession of a controlled dangerous substance and possession of drug paraphernalia, or both, for a period to be determined by the district attorney, not to exceed twenty-four (24) months. During this period, the defendant shall be supervised in the community by the district attorney or by a private supervision program.

DRUG ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM

The drug asset forfeiture program was created by the Oklahoma Legislature in 1971. The fund is not subject to fiscal year limitations and is to be used for enforcement of controlled dangerous substance laws, drug abuse prevention and education, and is maintained by the district attorney to be used at his or her discretion for those purposes. The revenues for said fund come from the proceeds of forfeited assets. Any cash, vehicles, real property, or other assets used in the commission of or acquired as a result of a crime as described in the Uniform Controlld Dangerous Substances Act is presumed to be forfeitable.



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For the purpose of complying with 74 O.S. § 212.E and 22 O.S. §§ 114, 991d, 991a(A)(1), 991.f-1.1, and 63 O.S. §§ 2-506 and 2-901, we have performed the following procedures as they relate to the records of the District Attorney's programs for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

Bogus Check Restitution, Supervision Fee/State Remittance, 991 Fee/State Remittance, Restitution and Diversion, and Drug Possession and Diversion Programs:

- Determine that internal controls are designed and operating over the collections and disbursement process.
- Examine fees to determine that the correct fees are assessed, receipted, and deposited in compliance with 28 O.S. § 153, 22 O.S. §§ 114, 991d, 991a(A)(1), 991f-1.1, 63 O.S. § 2-901, and 19 O.S. § 215.11.
- Determine whether disbursements are used to defray the expenses of the District Attorney's office in accordance with 22 O.S. §§ 114, 991d, 991a(A)(1), 991f-1.1, and 63 O.S. § 2-901, and whether disbursements are supported by approved claims, invoices, and verification that goods or services paid for were received.
- Determine whether the District Attorney reconciles accounts with the County Treasurer's ledgers.
- Determine whether the District Attorney prepares and submits an annual report to the District Attorneys Council that reflects total collections and total disbursements for the Bogus Check Restitution, Supervision Fee/State Remittance, 991 Fee/State Remittance, Restitution and Diversion, and Drug Possession and Diversion programs.

Drug Asset Forfeiture Program:

- Determine that internal controls are designed and operating over the collections and disbursement process.
- Determine that the District Attorney maintains a true and accurate inventory of all property seized in accordance with 63 O.S. § 2-506.K.
- Review sale documentation for selected cases to determine whether forfeited assets were sold after a public auction to the highest bidder in accordance with 63 O.S. §§ 2-506 and 2-508.
- Review the distribution of proceeds to determine the distribution was in accordance with court orders pursuant to 63 O.S. §§ 2-506.K and 2-508.
- Test disbursements to determine they are supported by approved claims, invoices, and independent verification that goods or services paid for were received.
- Determine whether the District Attorney prepares and submits an annual report to the District Attorneys Council reflecting the total collections, total disbursements, beginning and ending balances in accordance with 63 O.S. § 2-506.L.3.
- Determine if the District Attorney reconciles account balances with the County Treasurer.

All information included in the financial records of the Bogus Check Restitution, Supervision Fee/State Remittance, 991 Fee/State Remittance, Restitution and Diversion, Drug Possession and Diversion, and Drug Asset Forfeiture Programs are the representation of the District Attorney for their respective district.

Our engagement was limited to the procedures performed above and was less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on any basic financial statement of Rogers, Mayes, or Craig County.

Based on our procedures performed, there were no exceptions noted.

This report is intended for the information and use of the District Attorney and District management. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

CINDY BYRD, CPA

OKLAHOMA STATE AUDITOR & INSPECTOR

September 10, 2024



