



Auditor of Public Accounts
Mike Harmon

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Harmon Releases Audit of McCreary County Clerk's Fee Account

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the audit of the 2016 financial statement of McCreary County Clerk Eric Haynes. State law requires the auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the McCreary County Clerk in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The clerk's financial statement did not follow this format. However, the clerk's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology. This reporting methodology is followed for all 120 clerk audits in Kentucky.

As part of the audit process, the auditor must comment on noncompliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. The auditor must also comment on material weaknesses involving the internal control over financial operations and reporting.

The audit contains the following comment:

The McCreary County Clerk's office lacks adequate segregation of duties. This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year report as Finding 2015-001. The McCreary County Clerk's office lacks adequate segregation of duties over the accounting and reporting functions of the clerk's office. The clerk's bookkeeper is responsible for receiving cash, preparing daily deposits, preparing and signing checks, preparing monthly bank reconciliations and also comparing the weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports to the ledgers.

The county clerk's office has a limited budget, which restricts the number of employees the county clerk can hire or delegate duties to, and prevents a proper segregation of duties.

Lack of segregation of incompatible duties or strong oversight increases the risk that undetected errors could occur.

Proper segregation of duties over the accounting and reporting functions such as preparation of the quarterly reports or implementing compensating controls, when necessary because of a limited number of staff, is essential for providing protection from undetected errors occurring. Additionally, proper segregation of duties protects employees in the normal course of performing their daily responsibilities.

We recommend the McCreary County Clerk separate the duties involved in receiving cash, preparing deposits, writing checks, preparing monthly bank reconciliations and comparing financial reports to ledgers; however, if due to a limited budget, this is not feasible, cross-checking procedures could be implemented and documented by the individual performing the procedure.

County Clerk's response: The county clerk did not provide a response.

The county clerk's responsibilities include collecting certain taxes, issuing licenses, maintaining county records and providing other services. The clerk's office is funded through statutory fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The audit report can be found on the [auditor's website](#).

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