

**ATTESTATION REPORT  
OF  
GARFIELD COUNTY COURT**

**JULY 1, 2014, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016**

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**Issued on June 27, 2017**

# GARFIELD COUNTY COURT

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# GARFIELD COUNTY COURT

## COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

During our examination of the Garfield County Court, we noted a certain deficiency that is presented here.

This comment and recommendation is intended to improve the internal control over financial reporting in the following area:

### **Segregation of Duties**

Good internal control includes a plan of organization, procedures, and documentation designed to safeguard assets and to provide reliable financial records. A system of internal control should include a proper segregation of duties, so no one individual is capable of handling all phases of a transaction from beginning to end.

We noted that the office of the County Court lacked a segregation of duties, as one person was capable of handling all aspects of processing transactions from beginning to end. A lack of segregation of duties increases the risk of possible errors or irregularities; however, due to a limited number of personnel, an adequate segregation of duties is not possible without additional cost. Further, personnel are under the direction of both the Nebraska State Court Administrator and the Presiding Judge. We have included this comment in previous examinations. We consider this to be a material weakness.

We recommend the County Court and the Nebraska State Court Administrator review this situation. As always, the cost of hiring additional personnel versus the benefit of a proper segregation of duties must be weighed.

*Clerk Magistrate's Response: Upon review of the Garfield County Audit for 2014-2016, I see no areas which are a cause for concern. However, I was not the Clerk Magistrate for part of that time period. My only concern, which was mentioned, is the segregation of duties. As a Clerk Magistrate, I make every effort to maintain the highest level of financial responsibility possible. Garfield County is somewhat small in size as well as case load, but I feel the same level of integrity is maintained throughout every aspect of this Court.*

It should be noted this report is critical in nature, as it contains only our comment and recommendation on the area noted for improvement and does not include our observations on any accounting strengths of the County Court.

Draft copies of this report were furnished to the County Court to provide management an opportunity to review the report and to respond to the comment and recommendation included in this report. The formal response received has been incorporated into this report. The response has been objectively evaluated and recognized, as appropriate, in the report. A response that indicates corrective action has been taken was not verified at this time, but it will be verified in the next examination.



## NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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Charlie Janssen  
State Auditor

Charlie.Janssen@nebraska.gov  
PO Box 98917  
State Capitol, Suite 2303  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509  
402-471-2111, FAX 402-471-3301  
www.auditors.nebraska.gov

### GARFIELD COUNTY COURT

#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

We have examined the accompanying Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions of the Garfield County Court as of and for the period July 1, 2015, to December 31, 2016, and the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The County Court's management is responsible for the Schedules based on the accounting system and procedures set forth in Note 1. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Schedules based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Schedules are based on the accounting system and procedures set forth in Note 1, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Schedules, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions for the period July 1, 2015, to December 31, 2016, and the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, are based on the accounting system and procedures prescribed by the Nebraska Supreme Court, as set forth in Note 1, in all material respects.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report findings of deficiencies in internal control, violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements, abuse that is material to the Schedules, and any fraud and illegal acts that are more than inconsequential that come to our attention during our examination. We are also required to obtain the views of management on those matters. We performed our examination to express an opinion on whether the Schedules are presented in accordance with the criteria described above and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the internal control over the Schedules or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions. Our examination disclosed a certain finding that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, and that finding, along with the views of management, is described in the Comment Section of the report.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Supreme Court, others within the County Court, and the appropriate Federal and regulatory agencies, and it is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.



June 23, 2017

Zachary Wells, CPA, CISA  
Audit Manager  
Lincoln, Nebraska

**GARFIELD COUNTY COURT**  
**BURWELL, NEBRASKA**  
**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS**  
**AGENCY FUNDS**

For the Period Ending December 31, 2016

	Balance July 1, 2015	Additions	Deductions	Balance December 31, 2016
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and Deposits	\$ 6,317	\$ 86,340	\$ 83,788	\$ 8,869
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Due to State Treasurer:				
Regular Fees	\$ 699	\$ 11,214	\$ 11,372	\$ 541
Law Enforcement Fees	51	1,085	1,052	84
State Judges Retirement Fund	177	4,344	4,189	332
Court Administrative Fees	191	6,384	6,017	558
Legal Services Fees	167	3,882	3,769	280
Due to County Treasurer:				
Regular Fines	1,300	26,033	24,550	2,783
Overload Fines	25	875	900	-
Regular Fees	70	561	595	36
Petty Cash Fund	-	100	-	100
Due to Municipalities:				
Regular Fines	-	994	984	10
Trust Fund Payable	3,637	30,868	30,360	4,145
Total Liabilities	\$ 6,317	\$ 86,340	\$ 83,788	\$ 8,869

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the schedule.

**GARFIELD COUNTY COURT**  
**BURWELL, NEBRASKA**  
**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS**  
**AGENCY FUNDS**  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Balance July 1, 2014	Additions	Deductions	Balance June 30, 2015
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and Deposits	\$ 12,065	\$ 45,778	\$ 51,526	\$ 6,317
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Due to State Treasurer:				
Regular Fees	\$ 1,044	\$ 10,071	\$ 10,416	\$ 699
Law Enforcement Fees	103	781	833	51
State Judges Retirement Fund	305	2,655	2,783	177
Court Administrative Fees	929	3,144	3,882	191
Legal Services Fees	325	2,638	2,796	167
Due to County Treasurer:				
Regular Fines	3,898	17,517	20,115	1,300
Overload Fines	75	25	75	25
Regular Fees	11	206	147	70
Due to Municipalities:				
Regular Fines	200	245	445	-
Trust Fund Payable	5,175	8,496	10,034	3,637
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 12,065</b>	<b>\$ 45,778</b>	<b>\$ 51,526</b>	<b>\$ 6,317</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the schedule.

**GARFIELD COUNTY COURT**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL SCHEDULES**

For the Period Ended December 31, 2016, and Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

**1. Criteria**

**A. Reporting Entity**

The Garfield County Court is established by State statute and is administratively operated through the Court Administrator's Office of the Nebraska Supreme Court, which is part of the State of Nebraska reporting entity. The Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions of the County Court reflect only the Agency Funds activity of the County Court, including the receipts and their subsequent disbursement to the appropriate entities for which they were collected. The Schedules do not reflect the personal services expenses of the County Court, which are paid by the Nebraska Supreme Court, or the operating expenses, which are paid by Garfield County.

**B. Basis of Accounting**

The accounting records of the County Court Agency Funds are maintained, and the Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions have been prepared, based on the accounting system and procedures prescribed by the Nebraska Supreme Court. Under this system of accounting, fines, fees, and receipts relating to trust funds are shown as additions to assets and as an increase in the related liability when received. Likewise, disbursements are shown as deductions to assets and as a decrease in the related liability when a check is written.

**2. Deposits and Investments**

Funds held by the County Court are deposited and invested in accordance with rules issued by the Supreme Court, as directed by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 25-2713 (Reissue 2016). Funds are generally consolidated in an interest-bearing checking account; however, the County Court may order certain trust funds to be invested separately. Any deposits in excess of the amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation are required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-2326.04 (Reissue 2009) to be secured either by a surety bond or as provided in the Public Funds Deposit Security Act.