

## Ken Burke, CPA


CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER  
PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Clerk and Accountant of the Board of County Commissioners  
Custodian of County Funds  
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### REPORT NO. 2013-28

TO: Myriam Irizzarry, Chief Deputy Director  
Clerk's Court and Operational Services Division

FROM: Hector Collazo, Jr., Director   
Division of Inspector General

DIST: Ken Burke, CPA, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller  
Patti Hager, Manager, Civil Court Records Department  
Nancy Dickman, Assistant Manager, Civil Court Records Department  
Meri-Jo Gibson, Supervisor, Civil (Support) Department

SUBJECT: Investigation of Clerk's Accounting of Payments Received  
Complainant: Nick Nicholas Child Support/Alimony  
Case No. 00-0012650-FD

DATE: September 3, 2013

The Division of Inspector General's Public Integrity Unit (PIU) received allegations of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse related to Nick Nicholas' child support/alimony Case No. 00-0012650-FD.

The complainant alleged that the Clerk's Civil Support Department (respondent) failed to properly account for his payments, and this resulted in his child support arrearage. As a result of the status of his arrearage, the complainant has had numerous legal problems over the years.

The complainant provided documentation to assist with the investigation. We received the complainant's assessment of his payments made together with documentation from the Clerk's Civil Support Department and Florida Department of Revenue.

To determine whether the allegations were substantiated, we reviewed policies, procedures, and any other records deemed appropriate. We also conducted interviews



of the Clerk's staff and other parties, as needed. Our investigation was performed according to the *Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General* and *The Florida Inspectors General Standards Manual* from The Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

The Division of Inspector General investigation of the allegations has determined that the allegations noted above were *unfounded*.

The Inspector General Division and the Clerk's Civil Support Department management reviewed the payment history for this case. The Clerk's Civil Support Department also performed an audit of the case history, and determined that they have accounted for the payments received in compliance with the various Court Orders received.

Should the complainant's interpretation of the various Court Orders be different than the Clerk's application of the credits, the complainant should file a motion to the court to dispute the amount currently due. The Inspector General's office made this recommendation to the complainant. Furthermore, the Clerk's Support Department does not have the ability to adjust any existing arrearages without a new Court Order requiring them to do so.

We want to thank the Management of the Clerk's Operations and Civil Support Department for their assistance and cooperation during this investigation.