



Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General
A State of Florida Commission on Law Enforcement Accredited Agency
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To: The Honorable Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of Courts, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Audrey Edmonson, Chairwoman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Felix Jimenez, Interim Inspector General 

Date: October 1, 2020

Subject: Former Miami-Dade Clerk of Courts Employee Pleads to Criminal Charges;
Ref. IG19-0006-I

A joint Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO) criminal investigation of Nona Brown, a former employee of the Miami-Dade County Clerk of Courts (Clerk's Office), ended today with Ms. Brown's plea to the Court. Ms. Brown pled to criminal misdemeanor charges of Petit Theft and Exploitation of Official Position. Brown worked in the Child Support Enforcement, Central Depository Section of the Clerk's Office as a Court Records Specialist 1. Her duties included updating client addresses for case files, receiving new cases, processing printouts of client payments and clearance letters, receiving customers' child support payments and applying the customer payments to the appropriate accounts. Ms. Brown used her position to steal \$1,000.

In January 2019, the Clerk's Office referred the findings of its internal audit to the OIG for criminal investigation. The internal audit was initiated when a child support payor complained to the Clerk's Office that his \$1,000 payment was not credited to his account. The payor produced an official receipt evidencing that he made the \$1,000 payment. Ms. Brown, who happened to be out on sick leave, was identified as the clerk who handled the transaction. The investigation revealed that Ms. Brown pocketed the \$1,000 in paid child support, instead of applying it to the payor's file. To cover up her crime, she then proceeded to take cash from subsequent child support payors and apply it to the previous payor's account.

Ms. Brown pled no contest to both charges and stipulated that she is ineligible for future government employment. The Court withheld adjudication of guilt and suspended entry of sentence. Prior to the plea, Ms. Brown paid \$1,000 in restitution to the Clerk's Office and resigned from her employment.

The OIG would like to thank the Clerk's Office for its referral and continued assistance with the criminal investigation.

cc: Mike Henderson, Assistant to Clerk, Clerk of Courts
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit and Management Services Department
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor