




Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General
A State of Florida Commission on Law Enforcement Accredited Agency
19 West Flagler Street ♦ Suite 220 ♦ Miami, Florida 33130
Phone: (305) 375-1946 ♦ Fax: (305) 579-2656
Visit our website at: www.miamidadeig.org

To: The Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Courts, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez,
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From:  Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: November 16, 2012

Subject: Former Miami-Dade Clerk of the Courts Employees Plead Guilty to Charges of Organized Scheme to Defraud and Official Misconduct for Altering and Falsifying Marriage License Records; Ref. IG 11-48

Arthur Spicer, Jr. (Spicer) and Versey Miller (Miller), former employees of the Miami-Dade County Clerk of the Courts (Clerk's Office), pled guilty this week to multiple counts of Official Misconduct as well as one count each of Organized Scheme to Defraud. Spicer and Miller were arrested last August following an investigation by the Miami-Dade Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office.

Spicer was a Courtroom Clerk 1 assigned to the Marriage License Bureau and working at the North Dade Justice Center District Court office. Miller, also assigned to the Marriage License Bureau, was a Court Records Specialist 2 working at the Hialeah District Court office. Spicer, a 21-year employee, and Miller, an 8-year employee, were terminated from the Clerk's Office during the course of the investigation. As part of their duties, Spicer and Miller processed marriage license requests, issued marriage licenses, performed marriage ceremonies, and maintained marriage license records. The OIG investigation revealed that they falsified and altered official marriage license records, circumvented State of Florida statutory waiting period requirements, and pocketed fees from couples they overcharged and fees that were due to the Clerk's Office.

Both Spicer and Miller were sentenced to five (5) years of probation. Among the special conditions of their probation, Spicer and Miller will be required to pay restitution to the couples and to the Clerk's Office, perform 100 hours of community service, pay the costs of investigation to the OIG, and are prohibited from obtaining public employment during their term of probation.

The OIG is grateful to Mr. Ruvin and his staff for their cooperation during the investigation.

cc: Ed Marquez, Deputy Mayor
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services Department
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor