

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS
302 West Washington Street
Room E418
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769

AUDIT REPORT
OF
COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUVENILE PROBATION
LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA
January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007



FILED
09/25/2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u>
County Officials	2
Transmittal Letter	3
Audit Results and Comments:	
Juvenile Probation Fees	4
Waiver of Fees.....	4
Exit Conference.....	5
Official Response	6-7

COUNTY OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Chief Probation Officer	William Briggs	01-01-07 to 12-31-08
Administrative Assistant	Gina Klute	01-01-07 to 12-31-08
Judge	Tom Alevizos	01-01-07 to 12-31-10
President of the County Council	Jerry Cooley Mark Yagelski	01-01-07 to 12-31-07 01-01-08 to 12-31-08
President of the Board of County Commissioners	Barbara Huston William Hager	01-01-07 to 12-31-07 01-01-08 to 12-31-08



STATE OF INDIANA
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS
302 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
ROOM E418
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769

Telephone: (317) 232-2513
Fax: (317) 232-4711
Web Site: www.in.gov/sboa

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF LAPORTE COUNTY

We have audited the records of the County Circuit Court Juvenile Probation for the period from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007, and certify that the records and accountability for cash and other assets are satisfactory to the best of our knowledge and belief, except as stated in the Audit Results and Comments. The financial transactions of this office are reflected in the Annual Report of LaPorte County for the year 2007.

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

May 15, 2008

COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUVENILE PROBATION
LAPORTE COUNTY
AUDIT RESULTS AND COMMENTS

JUVENILE PROBATION FEES

The juvenile probation administrative fee is set by statute at \$100. In 2007, the Juvenile Probation Department was charging the administrative fee at \$50 on their probation cases.

Indiana Code 31-40-2-1(a)(3) states: "an administrative fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) if the delinquent child is supervised by a juvenile probation officer."

WAIVER OF FEES

The Juvenile Probation Officers are waiving unpaid fees at the end of the probation term if they determine the family is financially unable to pay the fees.

Indiana Code 31-40-4-1 states: "If the parent or guardian of the estate: (1) defaults in reimbursing the county; or (2) fails to pay a fee authorized by this article; the juvenile court may find the parent or guardian in contempt and enter judgment for the amount due."

COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUVENILE PROBATION
LAPORTE COUNTY
EXIT CONFERENCE

The contents of this report were discussed on May 15, 2008, with William Briggs, Chief Probation Officer; Gina Klute, Administrative Assistant; and Thomas Pawloski, Magistrate. The official response has been made a part of this report and may be found on pages 6 and 7.

WILLIAM A. BRIGGS
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

DEBRA A. ACKERMAN
PROBATION OFFICER

JENNIFER L. LANE
PROBATION OFFICER

HEATHER GLASSMAN
PROBATION OFFICER

813 Lincolnway, Suite 106
La Porte, Indiana 46350
(219) 326-6808, Ext. 224
FAX: (219) 326-0220

LA PORTE CIRCUIT COURT
JUVENILE PROBATION

THOMAS ALEVIZOS
JUDGE

RICHARD R. STALBRINK, JR.
MAGISTRATE

DESIREE D. NICHOLS
CHIEF PROBATION
OFFICER

STASI BENNING
PROBATION OFFICER

CHRISTINA L. WATT
PROBATION OFFICER

APRIL STRIETER
PROBATION OFFICER

CHRISTOPHER M.
WATKINS
PROBATION OFFICER

300 Washington Street, Suite
222
Michigan City, Indiana 46360
(219) 874-5611, Ext. 766
FAX: (219) 879-7842

May 19, 2008

State Board of Accounts
302 West Washington Street
Room E 418
Indianapolis, IN. 46204-2765

Re: OFFICIAL RESPONSE

Dear Sir/Madaam,

The Laporte Circuit Court Juvenile Probation Department was recently audited for the period of time between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007. At the exit interview the results provided to our department contained comments regarding probation officers excusing fees which had been ordered by the Court. This "practice" was an order issued to probation officers—in Court—to determine those fees which could be excused, and to, in fact, excuse them. Simply, the Judge—in Court---- directed families to discuss with the probation officer any difficulty they anticipated in paying fees and further stated that the probation officer has the Court's authority to forgive/excuse those fees. It should be noted that this practice is no longer in place with our new administration.

Sincerely,



William A. Briggs, Chief Probation Officer
Laporte Circuit Court
Juvenile Probation Departement
Laporte Division

LA PORTE CIRCUIT COURT

THOMAS J. ALEVIZOS
JUDGE

RICHARD R. STALBRINK, JR.
JUVENILE MAGISTRATE

813 LINCOLNWAY
SUITE 303
COURTHOUSE
LA PORTE, INDIANA 46350-3482
(219) 326-6808 ext. 228

TELECOPIER (219) 324-0147

SALLY A. ANKONY
MAGISTRATE

THOMAS G. PAWLOSKI
MAGISTRATE

KRISTA S. MAC LENNAN, JD
DIRECTOR OF
JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

May 19, 2008

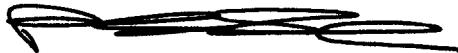
State Board of Accounts
302 West Washington street
Room E 418
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2765

Re: OFFICIAL RESPONSE

Dear Sir/Madam:

The LaPorte Circuit Court Juvenile Probation Department was recently audited for the period between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007. At the exit conference the results provided to the department contained comments regarding collection of juvenile probation fees. It has been the practice of the department to collect an administration fee of \$50.00 which reduces by one-half the amount authorized under the statute. IC 31-40-2-1 clearly states that a juvenile court may order each delinquent child who receives supervision to pay an administration fee of \$100.00. The statute does not state that a \$100.00 administrative fee shall be collected and nowhere in the statute does it state that the court cannot reduce the amount. In fact, it appears that the utilization of the word "may" would allow the court not to collect any fee at all. Based on the language in the statute it would appear that the audit comments and write-up would be incorrect and that the juvenile probation department was in compliance with IC 31-40-2-1. The portion of the comments referring to the collection of the \$100.00 administration fee should be removed.

Very truly yours,



Richard R. Stalbrink