

Collier County Clerk of Courts Office of Inspector General

Investigative Report 2022.23
Allegedly False Court Documents
Filed with the Clerk's Office

Inspector General Insights

Background: The Naples Police Department (NPD) contacted the Clerk's office, and informed us of a potentially fraudulent court document filed with the Clerk's office. They based this on a review of the court documents available online through the Clerk's Showcase system.

Objective: To assist law enforcement with the time, source and other information about the documents filed with the Clerk's office.

Actions: The Office of Inspector General (OIG) Senior Investigator reviewed the documentation and researched the case. He found evidence of an apparent motive behind the alleged alteration of the document, which related to a child custody and paternity issue.

- Under the provisions stated in the Temporary Injunction, paternity was not established for the
 petitioner (potential father). As such, pursuant to Florida Statute, 100% of time sharing was
 then awarded to the respondent until paternity was established.
- The petitioner filed a "Petition to Determine Paternity and for Related Relief" under a new case. On the same date, the petitioner also filed a Parenting Plan.
- As required by the court, the petitioner filed a "Notice of Related Cases" where he listed the Temporary Injunction order.
- An alleged Final Order for Injunction was filed, based on superficial alterations to the Temporary Injunction document, with the apparent intent to use it as a legal document from the Court.
- The petitioner voluntarily filed an "Order of Dismissal of Temporary Injunction for Protection" where he agreed to voluntary dismiss the Temporary Injunction.
- By taking this action, the case was dissolved, and a Final Injunction was never filed in this
 case. As such, the alleged Final Injunction order appeared to be fraudulent.

Conclusion: Our findings and all supporting documentation were forwarded to the NPD in support of their case.

Total # Transactions	Amounts Audited or Reviewed	Questioned Costs	Taxpayer Savings	# Findings
5	N/A	N/A	N/A	1