

Domestic Violence Fund

Mobile County, Alabama

September 1, 2022 through May 31, 2025

Filed: October 3, 2025

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
EXAMINERS of Public Accounts

Rachel Laurie Riddle, *Chief Examiner* | 334-777-0500 | www.alexaminers.gov

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Rachel Laurie Riddle
Chief Examiner

Honorable Rachel Laurie Riddle
Chief Examiner of Public Accounts
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Madam:

An examination was conducted on the Domestic Violence Fund, Mobile County, Alabama, for the period September 1, 2022 through May 31, 2025. Under the authority of the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 41-5A-19, I hereby swear to and submit this report to you on the results of the examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Misty C. Medders

Misty C. Medders
Examiner of Public Accounts

rb

25-580

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Department of
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EXAMINER'S SUMMARY

Domestic Violence Fund
Mobile County, Alabama
September 1, 2022 through May 31, 2025

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION

This report presents the results of an examination of the Domestic Violence Fund, Mobile County, Alabama, (hereinafter referred to as the "Fund") and a review of the Fund's compliance with applicable laws and regulations of the State of Alabama in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts under the authority of the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 41-5A-12.

The Agency Overview contained in this report provides information on the Fund's operating authority. The Fund's financial information for the examination period is contained in Exhibit 1.

Honorable Spiro Cheriogotis served as Presiding District Judge until January 16, 2025. Honorable Zack Moore served as Presiding District Judge through the remainder of the examination period.

RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION

An instance of noncompliance with state or local laws and regulations and other matters was found during the examination as shown on the Schedule of State and Local Compliance and Other Findings and it is summarized below.

Finding

- 2025-001: The Presiding Circuit Judge failed to implement policies and procedures to ensure timely deposit of money.

EXIT CONFERENCE

The Official was invited to and attended the exit conference to discuss the results of this examination. Representing the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts were Rachel Hamm, Audit Manager and Misty Medders, Examiner.

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AGENCY OVERVIEW

Domestic Violence Fund
Mobile County, Alabama
September 1, 2022 through May 31, 2025

The Mobile County Domestic Violence Fund is authorized by the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 45-49-82.02. The Chief Presiding District Court Judge of Mobile County is responsible for operations of the Domestic Violence Fund. The Domestic Violence Fund consists of court costs remitted by the circuit, district and municipal courts in Mobile, Alabama, on all cases determined to be domestic violence cases. The funds held in the Domestic Violence Fund are to be used to operate domestic violence shelters in Mobile County that are in compliance with the standards for operation of the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Schedule of State and Local Compliance and Other Findings

Ref. No.	Finding/Noncompliance
2025-001	**Finding:** The ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 36-12-2, requires all public officers to make and accurately keep the necessary records to document the activities required to be done by such officer. In order to fulfill these responsibilities, it is incumbent upon the Presiding District Judge to establish and implement policies and procedures to ensure deposits are made on a timely basis. During the examination period, money was not deposited on a timely basis. In some instances, money was held up to twenty-two (22) days before being deposited. As a result, the Presiding District Judge did not ensure the safeguarding of money receipted. **Recommendation:** The Presiding District Judge should establish and implement policies and procedures to ensure deposits are made on a timely basis.

Financial Information

Summary of Receipts, Disbursements and Cash Balance
September 1, 2022 through May 31, 2025

Receipts		
State of Alabama	$	2,186.60
Municipal Courts:		
Mobile		8,714.96
Prichard		800.00
Chickasaw		167.00
Citronelle		850.00
Mount Vernon		50.00
Saraland		2,555.69
Satsuma		208.00
Bayou La Batre		400.00
Total Receipts		15,932.25
Disbursements		
Penelope House Domestic Violence Shelter		16,250.10
Total Disbursements		16,250.10
Excess of Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements		(317.85)
Balance - September 1, 2022		1,969.20
Balance - May 31, 2025	$	1,651.35