

JOHN E. MARTINELLI

JUDGE



FRANK S. LOMBARDI

CLERK

JULIA M. ROLLINS

DEPUTY CLERK

PROBATE COURT OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
RHODE ISLAND

January 25, 1996

To The Honorable Vincent A. Cianci, Mayor and
The Honorable Council of the City of Providence

I hereby submit the annual report of the operations of the Probate Court of the City of Providence for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1994 and ending June 30, 1995.

The cash receipts for this period amounted to \$207,274.42 which was down from \$214,210.67 for the previous period.

In the period from July 1, 1995 to December 31, 1995 the collections totaled \$97,596.69 which is down from \$116,407.06. However, the \$116,407.06 figure should have been \$100,127.06.

If the receipts continue as in the past, I would anticipate that the receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996 to be around \$210,000.

The number of wills filed for probate this past year was 233 compared to 243 from last year, and the number of petitions for administration was 90 as compared to 89 for the previous year. There were 10 Custodianships granted.

The number of guardianships granted by the Court was 65 as opposed to 61 for last year. There were 6 temporary guardianships granted and there were 89 status reports filed. There were no new petitions for conservatorship granted. There were 3 adult adoptions granted during this period.

There were 99 name change petitions granted this period as against 131 during the same period for the previous year. In addition, thereto, there were 44 petitions for the sale of real estate filed by various executors, guardians and administrators. There were also 327 miscellaneous petitions filed and granted or denied for various reasons.

There were 393 inventories filed by the fiduciaries and the necessary fees collected and reflected in the total receipts of the year.

During the year there were 274 accounts filed and processed by guardians, conservators, executors and administrators. There were 234 affidavits of completed administration filed.

There were 9 new registry accounts opened for absentees totaling \$188,511.77. There were no new registry accounts opened for minors.

Mayor Cianci and the Honorable City Council
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All of the above petitions were processed by the staff and advertised, when required by statute. In addition, all petitions requiring a hearing were acted upon by the Judge or Acting Judge, in his absence.

The Court has continued its' tracking of pending estates. While the Court has continued with its' manual tracking system of monitoring guardianship estates for the filing of annual accounts and status reports, it has begun the process towards computerization. All registry accounts, which have dramatically increased, are currently computerized in two separate formats. This has facilitated the presentation of these accounts to the internal auditors. I have met with the computer people of the City with a goal towards efficient record keeping and tracking of the Court's statutory obligation to monitor guardian accounts. In fact, we have planned visits to W. Hartford, CT who apparently has a streamlined Probate computer system. The ultimate goal is the installation of this program into our system and dissemination of the software to other Probate Courts throughout the State. Moreover, with computerization, timely filing of accounts will be facilitated through up-to-date communications with attorneys handling these pending files.

The Court also has been sending out notices and orders regarding petitions which have been pending for a considerable time without activity. In addition, we order attorneys and/or fiduciaries to file inventories, accounts, status reports and/or pay bond premiums, when said fiduciaries have failed to comply with the applicable statutes. During this report period, we have sent 284 citations and 307 orders to various attorneys and fiduciaries. The automation of the Court has facilitated in this endeavor as well.

Although the number of some of the above mentioned petitions has declined from the previous year, our work load has not diminished, since the new guardianship statute is much more complex and requires additional work by the Court and places mandates on the Probate Court which did not previously exist. In addition, the Probate Court, as stated above, has taken action, sua sponte in all estate matters, in order to insure that the fiduciaries are complying with RI General Laws. Finally, for the first time in several years the Probate Court, affected by recent retirements, has been short staffed thereby increasing the work load of those who remained.

Respectfully submitted,


Frank S. Lombardi, Esq.
Clerk

IN CITY COUNCIL
FEB 1 1996

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.


Michael R. Clement
CLERK

FILED

JAN 25 1 35 PM '96

DEPT. OF CITY CLERK
PROVIDENCE, R. I.