

ANTHONY B. SCIARRETTA  
JUDGE



ELAINE T. BUCCI  
CLERK

THERESA CADUTO  
DEPUTY CLERK

**PROBATE COURT OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
RHODE ISLAND**

January 21, 1994

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, 1992 and ending June 30, 1993.

The cash receipts for this period amounted to \$211,555.54 which was down from \$247,515.76 for the previous period.

In the period from July 1, 1993 to December 31, 1993 the collections totaled \$112,663.98 which is up from \$100,140.35.

If the receipts continue as in the past, I would anticipate that the receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1994 to be around \$205,000.

The number of wills filed for probate this past year was 268 compared to 242 from last year, and the number of petitions for administration was 85 as compared to 110 for the previous year.

The number of guardianships granted by the Court was 45 as opposed to 81 for last year. There was one new petition for conservatorship granted during this period. There was one adult adoption granted during this period.

There were 122 change of name petitions granted this period as against 97 during the same period for the previous year. In addition, thereto, there were 32 petitions for the sale of real estate filed by various executors, guardians and administrators. There were also 270 miscellaneous petitions filed and granted for various reasons.

There were 415 inventories filed by the fiduciaries and the necessary fees collected and reflected in the total receipts of the year.

During the year there were 241 accounts filed and processed by guardians, conservators, executors and administrators. There were 224 affidavits of completed administration filed.

There were no new registry accounts opened for absentees or minors.

Mayor Cianci and the Honorable City Council  
page two

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 become more active in tracking estates pending before the Court. Probate Court has implemented a manual tracking system for monitoring guardianship estates for the filing of annual accounts and annual status reports. The Legislature, in 1992, enacted RIGL §33-15-26 and 33-15-26.1, which mandates that Probate Courts monitor guardianship estates. The City Council has approved the purchase of a computer for our department, but to date, we have not received it. A computer would be more effective in meeting our statutory obligation to monitor guardianship estates.

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.

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 exist prior to 1993. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elaine T. Bucci*

Elaine T. Bucci, Esq.  
Clerk

IN CITY COUNCIL  
FEB 17 1994

READ

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*Michael R. Christ*  
CLERK