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## *Office of Paula S. O'Neil Clerk & Comptroller Pasco County, Florida*

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### **Deputy Clerk Arrested**

*July 7, 2015*

New Port Richey, FL – Paula S. O'Neil, Ph.D., Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller, reports that a three-year deputy clerk was arrested today for an office-related issue.

An internal quality assurance report revealed financial discrepancies for five cases involving less than \$1,000 during the month of June 2015. After some analysis, it became clear that money was missing from deposits in the New Port Richey Traffic Department. Further review pointed to a particular deputy clerk, who was immediately placed on administrative leave, pending the outcome of an investigation. The Pasco Sheriff's Office reviewed the information, found probable cause, and made an arrest.

Customer records have been identified and appropriate action has been taken to ensure that driver records were not adversely impacted by this incident.

Dr. O'Neil stressed that the Clerk & Comptroller's Office follows national auditing practices and has established a number of measures to safeguard public funds. "It is unfortunate that a deputy clerk within our Office may have violated her oath to preserve the public trust. The Clerk & Comptroller's Office holds firm to our loyalty oath and our core values of integrity, professionalism, and compassion. I am thankful that our strong internal controls resulted in the early detection of this situation," said O'Neil.

Annually, the Clerk & Comptroller's Office is entrusted with overseeing \$1.2 billion of county funding, receiving and distributing over \$114 million through courts and recording, countless items containing confidential information, and helping thousands of customers through difficult situations.

*The Florida Constitution established a Clerk & Comptroller as an elected public trustee in 1838 and established at the county level a system of checks and balances to serve and protect the interests of the public. The Clerk & Comptroller, Paula S. O'Neil, Ph.D. is an elected Constitutional Officer who under Florida Statutes provides information management, record keeping and financial management to the Circuit Court, County Court and County Government.*