

**REGISTER OF WILLS
CLERK OF ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY
YORK COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER**

BRYAN K. TATE
Register of Wills
Clerk of Orphans' Court

MACGREGOR J. BRILLHART, ESQ.
Solicitor



ARA KIMBERLY McPHERSON
Chief Deputy
Register of Wills

BECKY K. FOUST
Chief Deputy
Clerk of Orphans' Court Division

January 27, 2023

TO: Honorable Julie L. Wheeler, President Commissioner
Honorable Doug Hoke, Vice-President Commissioner
Honorable Ronald E. Smith, Commissioner
Gregory E. Monskie, Chief Clerk

FROM: Bryan K. Tate, Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans' Court

RE: York County Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans' Court 2022 Annual Report

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryan K. Tate".

The Register of Wills & Clerk of Ophans' Court office financials for 2022 reflect a year of collections for the York County General Fund and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the second highest annual collections in the history of this office.

In 2022, the office team continued to diligently implement improvements in technology upgrades and process modernization, which were first introduced in 2020, recalibrating all department systems due to the Coronavirus pandemic. In 2022, the virtual process for issuing Marriage Licenses moved to online scheduling, and the Will Probate and Estate Administration virtual process upgrade has begun in 2023. E-filing for new and existing cases in both Register of Wills and Clerk of Orphans' Court will begin being tested in 2023.

The department continued its outstanding professional working relationships with Orphans' Court Judges Vedder and M. Menges, Family and Juvenile Administrative Judge Marceca Strong, and Dependency & Adoption Judges Platts, Prendergast, C. Menges, Gothie and Stambaugh.

Acting as Agent for the Commonwealth of PA, Department of Revenue, Inheritance Tax Division, the Register collected \$44,790,372.02 in Inheritance Tax payments, \$206,287.25 less than 2021 receipts, but the second highest Inheritance Tax collection year on record in York County. Since the year 2000, York County Estates remitted PA Inheritance Taxes totaling \$544,390,425.71. As Agent for the Department of Revenue, Inheritance Tax Division, the Commonwealth reimbursed the county through the Register's Office \$238,421.36, a decrease of \$6,212.52 from the 2021 commission. Inheritance Tax commission is calculated by the PA Department of Revenue on IH Tax collected by the Register: first \$200,000 – 4.25%, next \$800,000 – 1.75%, and all commissions in excess of \$1 million – 0.5%.

Total fees collected in 2021 by the departments and remitted to the York County General Fund totaled: Register of Wills \$1,258,213.86 and Orphans' Court \$398,730.00 totaling **\$1,656,943.86, an increase of \$61,330.96 over 2021, and our highest year on record.** This total represents fees for filing documents, IH Tax commission, Act 34, Act 24 and automation fees.

Below are totals for office functions for 2022 compared to 2021:

Function	2022	2021
Opened Estates	2,532	3,056
Will Hearings	11	9
Termination of Parental Rights	219	174
Adoptions	205	217
Petition for Appt of Guardianship of Minor	17	22
Petition for Appt of Guardianship of Incapacitated	119 (40 Emergency)	141 (54 Emergency)
Marriage Licenses	2,883	2,777

The Commonwealth of PA received its portion of the fees collected by the office totaling: Register of Wills - \$80,459.75 and Orphans' Court - \$76,247.25 totaling \$156,707.00, an increase of \$1,931.75 over 2021.

The webpages for the Register and Clerk have been continually updated with current information from the PA Supreme Court and the Administration Office of PA Courts (AOPC), as well as York County Orphans' Court Local Rules, so users have the latest guidance for processing filings in the offices as well as updated virtual processes for Will Probates & Estate Administration and Marriage License application. The Register/Clerk case management system continues to be accessible and open on our webpages to provide access to all public documents that constituents may search, view and print online without having to visit the Judicial Center. Adoption records and closed Orphans' Court files remain sealed.

A spreadsheet of 2022, 2021 and 2020 department accomplishments is attached for your perusal and comparison against the 2000-2019 department accomplishments on the opposite side.

Special appreciation is given to the hard-working team in the Register/Clerk's Office:

Chief Deputy Register Kim McPherson

Chief Deputy Clerk Becky Foust

Register of Wills Staff:

Orphans' Court Staff:

Kris Stambaugh

Melodie Robinson

Britney Yeager

Barb Conaway

Barbato Arvonio

Kathy Guth

Casterina Linares

Solicitor MacGregor J. Brillhart, Esq.

Attachment

cc: President Judge Maria Musti Cook

Judge Kathleen J. Prendergast

Judge Clyde W. Vedder

Judge N. Christopher Menges

Judge Matthew D. Menges

Judge Joseph N. Gothie

Judge Andrea Marceca Strong

Judge Steven D. Stambaugh

Judge Todd R. Platts

Paul Crouse, Court Administrator