



October 11, 2018

RE: UPDATE ON CREMATION/TRANSIT PERMIT FEE

Dear UFDA Members and Non-Members:

I want to let you know what positive steps we, as an association, have taken in the past two weeks regarding the \$207 Cremation/Transit Permit Fee.

Last Wednesday, October 3rd, I was invited by Dr. Erik Christensen to participate in the Department of Health's annual meeting at the Cannon Health Building, where all the legislatively controlled fees for the Department of Health were discussed. As part of this meeting, I was able to address the entire group during the public comment portion of the meeting. I expressed our concern of the current fee for obtaining the permit and educated them on how this fee increase has affected Utah families. I was able to make key contacts with Dr. Miner from the Department of Health as well as Russ Frandsen, who is the Fiscal Analyst for the Department of Health. It was a great initial step in preparing for future meetings.

Additionally, yesterday, David White and myself were able to take part in the Administrative Rules Review Committee meeting. We had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the association and raise the concerns we have regarding the \$207 permit fee.

This item was placed on the agenda by Senator Gene Davis, who was contacted by one of his constituents with a concern about the excessive amount for the permit. The committee came to the conclusion and made a motion that they would send a letter to the Appropriations Executive Committee and the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee letting them know this topic was discussed and expressing their concern that the fee being charged does not justify the work it takes to obtain the permit. They will also be asking the appropriations committee to take a hard look at obtaining the funding requested by the Medical Examiner through the General Fund and not through this increased fee.

A few takeaways from this experience:

1. Our voice and the voice of the families we serve matter and can be heard.

This agenda item came about by a family affected by the fee who contacted their local representatives.

2. We need your help in taking action NOW.

We need you to contact your local legislators and express your concern about this permit fee. In this newsletter, you will find a petition that we would ask you and your staff to support by signing. As appropriate, we invite you to ask those families that are being affected by this permit fee to sign the petition as well.

3. UFDA is working hard & smart to get this fee reduced.

I am more optimistic now than I have ever been regarding this fee being reduced. We are making progress by being at the right meetings and speaking up when it is ours to do so.

We are headed in the right direction and need to keep the momentum going. Thank you for your support.

Justin M. Ford
UFDA President 2018-19