



**TO:** SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH      **DATE:** June 27, 2019

**RE:** *Death Certificate fee increase*

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**PETITION #14-19**

**That the Southern Nevada District Board of Health** *approve the increase of fees for death certificates due to the signing of Senate Bill 463, effective July 1, 2019*

**PETITIONERS:**

**Susan Zannis, Vital Records Supervisor** *SZ*  
**Michael Johnson, Ph.D., Director of Community Health** *MJ*  
**John Shannon, Director of Administration** *J*  
**Joseph P. Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc, Chief Health Officer** *JPI*

**DISCUSSION:**

The Office of Vital Records (VR) at Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) is responsible for registering births and deaths and distributing birth and death certificates, providing verifications and issuing burial permits according to the criteria set forth in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 440. SNHD remits fees to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics for all birth and death certificates sold and for all birth and death registrations. Additionally, SNHD remits fees to Clark County from sales of death certificates for support of the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner (NRS 440.700; 440.715)

In the 2019, 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, Senate Bill 463, Sections 7 and 7.5 passed to increase the fees for the support of the office of the county coroner from \$1 to \$4. This bill authorizes the county coroner to create: (1) a program to promote the mental health of the employees of the county coroner and any person impacted as a result of providing services in his or her professional capacity in response to an incident involving mass casualties within the county; and (2) a program that provides bereavement services to members of the public. (Effective July 1, 2019).

NRS 440.715 is hereby amended to read as follows:

440.715 1. If a board of county commissioners creates an account for the support of the county coroner pursuant to NRS 259.025, a district health officer who provides a certified copy of a record of death originating in that county shall charge and collect, in addition to any other fee therefor, the sum of \$4 (~~\$1~~) for the support of the office of the county coroner created pursuant to NRS 244.163.

In 2018 SNHD paid the county coroner's office \$89,390, representing \$1 for each death certificate sold. SNHD has not established a means to collect the fee to support the county coroner's office and thus has been paying this fee without the ability to recoup it. Trends show that over 89,000 death certificates will continue to be sold annually in Clark County by SNHD Vital Records, which will now represent more than \$356,000 payable to the county coroner's office. This will create a significant financial impact. Therefore, we are requesting that the Board of Health approve an increase of \$4 to each death certificate sold to represent the charge and collection of the fee as directed in NRS 440.715.

**FUNDING:**

No funds are required in approving the above requested action