

## **Cremation Authorization Fee**

The Office of the Medical Examiner charges a \$200 fee to review the death certificate of a body that will leave the state or that will be disposed of in a manner that will leave the body impossible to exhume (e.g., a body that leaves Utah for burial, burial at sea, cremation, decomposed via alkaline hydrolysis process, etc.). The medical examiner charges the fee to review the deceased's death certificate to ensure there is nothing amiss before the body is gone. For example, if they feel like the death certificate is too vague as to the cause of death, or if they feel like the circumstances surrounding the death may require the body to be exhumed later how the road to be examined, then they would halt the body from leaving the state or from being disposed of. The fee for this process is the same for however the body is being permanently disposed of, and in the case of cremation, this is referenced as the cremation authorization fee.

During the 2018 General Session, the legislature doubled the fee from \$100 to \$200 (H.B. 8, line [4806](#)). The Medical Examiner's office had sought money from the General Fund to cover expenses but was advised (Social Services Appropriations Committee) they could double the cremation authorization fee, rather than use money from the GF.

## **Disposition Fee**

This fee is not in statute but is set and collected by local health departments on individuals that want to dispose of a body on their own and are authorized to do so. These individuals do not want to pay a funeral home to dispose of a body. The state does not set this fee or collect it but it is assessed by local vital records offices that have decided to collect this fee.