

My name is Lena Mason. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify at this important hearing. I would like to thank Representative Harry Crawford for introducing bill # HB205 and Senator Kevin Meyer for introducing Bill #SB171. Special thanks to their staff for their support and research they rendered me in this important situation. It is very much appreciated.

My husband Robert and I have been residence of Alaska since 1969. Unfortunately he passed away suddenly on Nov 18, 2008. We have both received permanent fund checks since its inception.

I contacted the permanent fund office to inquire what the procedure was to file for my spouses dividend for 2008. We were advised he was not eligible. If he had passed away in Jan, Feb., or March of 2009 he would have been eligible for the 2008 permanent fund. They also advised that they had to implement a deadline for deceased residents and to be eligible they would have had have been to be a resident for one full year prior to death. I do know that prior to this new ruling deceased resident's received a check for the year they passed away.

If a child is born on Dec 31st they are eligible for a permanent fund check for the year they were born. Residents are allowed to be out of state for 180 days and still be eligible for the permanent fund. This new ruling for deceased residents does not make any sense.

My husband contributed to the state economy and was never out of state for for the maximum amount of time required to qualify to receive the fund.

How is it that the Permanent Fund Office is authorized to make changes for the distribution of the funds? It should be up to the legislature to make rulings regarding how State money is spent and distributed.

My situation is not unique judging by the letters I have read in the Anchorage Daily News.

I did submit an estate form to the PFD office with a copy of a death certificate. The estate form states it must be submitted by Mar 31st 2010., Whether they will honor our request remains to be seen.

I would like to request that you review this ruling and take it under advisement to rectify the guidelines for distribution of funds.

Please accept my most sincere Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lena Mason

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