

Letters to the editor (1/23/10)

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Dead face extra PFD demand

My daughter, Melissa Jayne, passed away in October 1999. When it came time to file for her 1999 PFD in 2000, she wasn't eligible even though she had met the residency requirements. Deceased individuals had an additional requirement -- the deceased person had to have been alive during the filing period.

It was at this point that I realized the additional requirements were inequitable. For example, under the existing requirement: Two individuals have both met the residency requirements. One is pronounced dead at 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31; the other is pronounced dead at 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 1. The individual dying on Dec. 31 (or their estate) does not get to apply for their PFD, whereas the individual dying on Jan. 1 (or their estate) does get to apply. That's just not right.

SB171 and HB205 correct this inequity by changing the requirement of having to be alive during the filing period. In a nutshell, if you've met the residency requirements for the year, regardless of when you pass away, you (or your estate) are eligible to apply for your last PFD.

I really appreciate Sen. Kevin Meyers for taking on the task of making this change. I encourage everyone to contact their representative in the House to encourage them to support what I refer to as "Melissa's Bill" (HB205), sponsored by Rep. Harry Crawford. Melissa's birthday is Feb. 24 -- I would really like to stand at her grave on that day and let her know that this has been fixed.

-- Katy Westfall Neher

Anchorage