

KIT CARSON COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

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Donetta Davidson
Colorado Clerks Association

Re: Drivers License at a County Office

Over the years that have been County Clerk's Offices that have provided service to the residents in our counties. This has changed over the years where we find that we provide service to residents from across the state. When I asked the State for an examiner that could come to Kit Carson County I was told that we would only have an examiner one day a month. I did not feel this was an option for the citizens of Eastern Colorado. The nearest State license would have been Sterling, Denver or Colorado Springs. Residents travel from the Metro areas to rural Colorado Drivers License Offices to just renew their license so they do not have to wait in line for hours. They said it was faster to come to Burlington and return to Denver then to wait in line so they travel 160 miles one way to get their license renewed.

I believe it was in 1994 or 1995 I worked with Representative Moellenburg and Senator Rizzuto to have the retention to the Counties increased from \$4.00 to \$8.00. It could not go higher without going into the HUTF funds which both did not feel the bill would pass if funds were taken from HUTF. When looking at the funding and the cost to have one examiner in my office the income from issuing licenses did not then nor now cover the cost of the salary let alone the benefits that the county provided. Now looking at the income that we have retained for the year 2013 \$10,280.00 and the salary for one examiner \$31,945.38 which does not include the benefits we still are short in regards to providing service for drivers license.

In 2013 we processed approximately 2049 items. This ranged from was an averaged 170 per month for Kit Carson County. This average does not include the number of tests that were issued to individuals or the number of people that took the test more than once.

We used to laugh at please take a number since we were able to provide service as the individuals came into the office. We have discussed at times if we do need to provide numbers and call them out especially when we have them lined out into the hall just to get their license renewed.

We processed approximately 2049 individuals that had a fee where we issued a Drivers License. This does not include the numerous individuals that we have taken the written

test and failed. Items that we do not get anything funds for are people taking tests, Permits, and Drivers License records.

We have seen an increase in the time it takes to make sure we have the proper documentation for issuing a license. Because of the time to review and make sure that we have reviewed scanned all documents for individuals we are taking time away from other areas in our office (Motor Vehicle Registration, Recording, and Elections). In the small counties we very few staff and they are cross trained to provide service not to just drivers license but to all other areas of the office. Any assistance in funding would be more then appreciated.

There are some counties that fee that they will charge more for this service if the individuals are not from their county and charge a \$20.00 fee above the cost of the license. Is this fair? I have even thought that we may have to charge for service if the individual is not from our county. I have always felt that as Drivers License Examiners we are to provide to all that come into our office at the same rate.

I currently have five examiners in my office and they strive to serve all that come in the office. They have an extreme amount of knowledge in regards to driver's license regulations and what is needed and required to issue a license. We see numerous updates that come in daily and strive to keep abreast of the changes.

Sincerely yours,

Della M. Calhoon
Kit Carson County Clerk