

1 **Rule 4-508. Guidelines for Ruling on a Motion to Waive Fees.**

2 **Intent:**

3 To promote statewide consistency in deciding motions to waive fees in civil cases and in the  
4 expungement of criminal records in which the moving party is not a prisoner.

5 To promote statewide consistency in deciding motions to waive fees in juvenile court cases in  
6 which the moving party is not a prisoner.

7 Nothing in this rule should be interpreted as limiting the discretion of the judge to decide a  
8 motion to waive fees.

9 **Applicability:**

10 This rule applies to all civil and small claims cases and in the expungement of criminal records  
11 in which the moving party is not a prisoner.

12 This rule applies to all juvenile court cases in which the moving party is not a prisoner.

13 As used in this rule “fee waiver” and similar phrases include waiving the fee in full or in part, as  
14 may be ordered by the judge.

15 **Statement of the Rule:**

16 (1) The moving party must complete a motion to waive fees and a financial affidavit approved  
17 by the Judicial Council’s Standing Committee on Court Forms. If requested by the court,  
18 The the moving party must provide supporting documentation of the claims made in the  
19 affidavit. In juvenile court, the minor or a minor’s parent, guardian or authorized  
20 representative may move to waive fees.

21 (2) Upon the filing of a motion to waive fees and financial affidavit, the court, sheriff or any  
22 other provider of a service offered by or through a government entity shall do what is  
23 necessary and proper as promptly as if the fee had been fully paid.

24 (3) A motion to waive fees may be decided without notice to the other parties, requires no  
25 response, request to submit for decision or hearing. The court will review the affidavit and  
26 make an independent determination whether the fee should be waived. The court should  
27 apply a common sense standard to the information and evaluate whether the information  
28 is complete, consistent and true. Section 78A-2-304 requires a party to pay a full or partial  
29 fee if the financial affidavit and any further questioning demonstrate the party is  
30 reasonably able to pay a fee.

31 (4) In general, a party is reasonably able to pay a fee if:

- 32 (4)(A) gross monthly income exceeds 100% of the poverty guidelines updated  
33 periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human  
34 Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).
- 35 (4)(B) the moving party has liquid assets that can be used to pay the fee without  
36 harming the party's financial position;
- 37 (4)(C) the moving party has credit that can be used to pay the fee without harming the  
38 party's financial position;
- 39 (4)(D) the moving party has assets that can be liquidated or borrowed against without  
40 harming the party's financial position;
- 41 (4)(E) expenses are less than net income;
- 42 (4)(F) Section 30-3-3 applies and the court orders another party to pay the fee of the  
43 moving party; or
- 44 (4)(G) in the judge's discretion, the moving party is reasonably able to pay some part of  
45 the fee.
- 46 (5) If the moving party is represented by private counsel, the motion to waive fees may be  
47 granted in proportion to the attorney's discount of the attorney fee. The moving party's  
48 attorney must provide an affidavit describing the fee agreement and what percentage of  
49 the attorney's normal, full fee is represented by the discounted fee.
- 50 (6) A motion to waive fees should be ruled upon within ten days after being filed.
- 51 (6)(A) If the fee is fully waived, the court, sheriff or any other provider of a service  
52 offered by or through a government entity shall do what is necessary and proper  
53 as promptly as if the fee had been fully paid.
- 54 (6)(B) If the fee is not fully waived, the court, sheriff or any other provider of a service  
55 offered by or through a government entity may require payment of the fee before  
56 doing what is necessary and proper. If the service has already been performed,  
57 the court, sheriff or service provider may do what is necessary and proper to  
58 collect the fee, including dismissal of the case.
- 59 (6)(C) If the fee is not fully waived, the court shall notify the party in writing of the fee  
60 amount, the procedure to challenge the fee; and the consequences of failing to  
61 pay the fee.
- 62 (6)(D) If the motion is rejected because of a technical error, such as failure to complete  
63 a form correctly or to attach supporting documentation, the court shall notify the  
64 moving party, and the moving party may file a corrected motion and affidavit  
65 within 14 days after being notified of the decision.

66 (7) In addition to any statutory remedies, an order granting a fee waiver may be reviewed at  
67 any time if the court has jurisdiction of the case. If the court determines, after waiving a  
68 fee, that the moving party is reasonably able to pay the fee, including from the proceeds of  
69 a judgment, the court may modify its previous order. The court may allocate the fee  
70 among the parties under Utah Rule of Civil Procedure 54, Utah Code Section 30-3-3, or  
71 as otherwise provided by law.

72 *Effective May 1, 2019*