



ARE AIRLINES COMPASSIONATE WITH FARES DUE TO A DEATH IN YOUR FAMILY?

By: Sabrina Winters, Attorney at Law, PLLC

If you lost a loved one and have needed to find a last minute flight to attend the funeral, you may have found that the airlines are not as gracious as they could be in offering valuable discounts on airfare.

I did a little “Google-ing” and was rather surprised that the Airlines were not more compassionate. After all, what better way to back a slogan that says “We really move our tail for you” (Continental) or “They have just one mission ...yours” (Trans World Airlines) if not at a time when it really counts?

Most airlines require that the family member that has passed away be within the relationship parameters as set out by the individual airline.

Most airlines will also require numerous documents and information, including a death certificate, to qualify for the discount. Having probated numerous estates for clients in Charlotte, North Carolina, I have never seen the funeral home provide a death certificate that quickly. It may be that the discount has to be refunded to you at a later date when you can provide all the documentation.

Here is what I found regarding actual pricing...

United Airlines and Delta Airlines

United offers a 5% discount on fares either round trip or one-way...Delta did not mention the value of the discount on its website. Delta’s website does direct you to a parent website page at Delta Cares for more information.

15720 John J. Delaney Drive, Suite 300, Charlotte, North Carolina 28277

(704) 843-1446

swinters@sabrinawinterslaw.com * www.ncestateplanninginfo.com

You can find more information for United at:

[United Airlines Bereavement Information](#) or call 1-800-864-8331.

You can find more information for Delta at:

[Delta Airlines Bereavement Information](#)

American Airlines

American Airlines' website states it "may" offer bereavement fares.

You can find more information for American Airlines at:

[American Airlines Bereavement Information](#) or call 1-800-433-7300.

Travel Discount Sites

Expedia

Expedia stated on its website that they are unable to process discounts for bereavement. The only way to receive discounted airfare for special bereavement rates is directly from the airlines. However, they do go on to say that their great rates and special offers may exceed the bereavement discount provided directly from the airlines.

Hotwire

Hotwire's website states that since they specialize in last-minute trips, it is likely that they will have more options on travel dates and times as well as lower airfare than the airlines directly. It does not appear that they have actual bereavement fares.

BOTTOM LINE...

Bereavement flights essentially are last minute purchases...these always tend to be more expensive. You may "fare" (pun intended!) better searching the travel discount sites. Unfortunately, you will need to invest time in doing your due diligence and searching for the best possible fare...as well as best travel time and dates.

15720 John J. Delaney Drive, Suite 300, Charlotte, North Carolina 28277

(704) 843-1446

swinters@sabrinawinterslaw.com * www.ncestateplanninginfo.com