

Supervisors raise marriage, divorce fees

SANTA CRUZ — It will be more expensive come Jan. 1 to get married or divorced.

County supervisors Tuesday, in a 4-1 vote with E. Wayne Moore Jr. against, approved fee increases and new fees for several county departments — including a \$17 increase in the divorce fee and a \$5 increase in the marriage license fee.

Beginning in 1983, the divorce fee will be \$109 and the marriage license fee will be \$28. The fee for a confidential marriage certificate also will rise, going from \$30 to \$35.

Those who can't afford the higher divorce fee won't be prevented from splitting with their spouse, however. The county allows anyone who can't afford court fees to petition the court for a waiver from those fees.

County Counsel Clair Carlson requested a new fee be created immediately for mobile home park residents appealing rent increases, but supervisors weren't quite ready to create such a fee. They continued consideration of this fee to Dec. 7, asking for a report on the issue at that time.

Attorney Terrence Hancock of Senior Citizen Legal Services told supervisors that such a fee would discourage seniors from appealing what they consider to be unfair rent increases.

Carlson is suggesting a \$175 fee for the filing of a petition against general rent adjustments.

While supervisors delayed their decision on this

new fee, they did create a \$350 fee plus \$1 per space in the park that would be charged to mobile home park owners who want the county to approve special rent increases.

Supervisors also created a \$150 fee for any appeal to the Board of Supervisors of decisions on rent adjustment petitions.

Both these fees will go into effect immediately. Supervisors also increased fees and created some new fees for the use of some facilities at county parks. These fees also go into effect immediately.

Moore said he voted against the resolution increasing these various fees and creating some new fees because he's opposed to charging people for the government bureaucracy that's been created through the county's mobile home rent adjustment ordinance.

He said these new fees will eventually be passed on to the mobile home park residents.

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