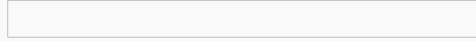

UPDATE: Money given, in full, to grieving mother

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Mother of Meadow McElravey fighting for money fundraised on her behalf

UPDATE:

As of Saturday midday, the entirety of the money fundraised on the Go Fund Me page for Meadow McElravey has been handed over to Trisha Healey.

This was never going to be a good or easy time for Meadow McElravey's family.

The seven-year-old was killed in a vehicle accident at Belle Plaine July 24. The same accident left her mother, Trisha Healey, with injuries from which she is still recovering today.

At the time, several fundraising campaigns were launched to help Trisha cope with the realities of her child's death, as well as her own — and family's — expenses. Now, she is fighting with Meadow's father and his family for all of the Go Fund Me Donations.

"It causes a lot of stress when you need to be focused on grieving and mourning, and the other side of (Meadow's) family is looking for a meal ticket," Trisha told the Times-Herald. "It's heartbreaking to use her for that."

The contention is over the Go Fund Me campaign started by Meadow's father's sister, which far surpassed its stated goal of \$10,000, and hit more than \$20,000 by the time it closed. The write-up for the campaign also stated that the money would be used for everything from funeral expenses and a memorial for Meadow, to gas bills and hotels for family travelling, hospital parking passes, and mortgage payments so Trisha wouldn't have to rush to get back to work.

"ALL funds will be given to Trisha (or her mother) and used for the above-mentioned things," it read.

Except for a \$2,000 advance from Meadow's father, according to Trisha, this has not been the case.

He did send a proposed breakdown of how the money should be split, including a "gift" to her of several thousands of dollars from what he considers to be his portion. After weeks of fighting with him and his family, Trisha and her mother, Cheryle Healey, have turned to Go Fund Me itself, as well as the police to investigate this matter.

"It's torture, what they're doing to her," Cheryle said. "I worry about her psychological health, what this is doing to her, on top of this tragedy."

Go Fund Me has written to Trisha confirming that she may qualify for protection under their guarantee, as the stated intended beneficiary of the campaign. Documents and correspondence shared with the Times-Herald show that withdrawals totalling \$18,400 were made from the Go

Fund Me campaign by Meadow's father's mother.

Trisha said her understanding of the deal was that the money would be collected in this way and then given over to her. She has asked for it several times and not received an answer from her ex or his mother.

Furthermore, receipts emailed to Trisha and Cheryle show the expenses Meadow's father's family is claiming against that total, including flights for people to attend the funeral and \$538 for one relative's baking — covering supplies and time — for the solemn occasion.

Notably, this morbid calculation does not include a contribution to Meadow's funeral, which cost more than the \$10,000 provided by SGI.

Trisha remains on crutches weeks after the accident and will not be able to return to work any time soon. While she could certainly use the money herself, she is equally concerned about the members of the public — family, friends, acquaintances, and strangers alike — who donated money to the campaign under the assumption that it was going to her and her alone.

The Times-Herald reached out to Meadow's father for comment, but he did not respond before press time.

“As a family who didn't really have much to do with Meadow, I don't think they should profit,” Trisha said, noting that Meadow saw her father a handful of times a year. “At the worst time of your life, you don't want more piled on top of it. As a mom, you don't let people use your child like that.”