

# Children in court fight for share of tycoon's £7m will

THE children of a Scots tycoon are going to court to challenge his will after he refused to leave them any of his £7 million fortune.

Alfred Stewart built his wealth through a property empire – but just weeks before his death, changed his will so his four adult children would not inherit a penny.

Instead, he left the vast bulk of the money to charity.

Now Mr Stewart's two sons and two daughters have begun a legal action claiming the 71-year-old millionaire, of Pitconnochie House, Crossford, Fife, was not of sound mind when he changed his will.

They are demanding that the Court of Session in Edinburgh grant an interim interdict immediately to

By **Marcello Mega**

stop it being executed. They are expected to try to persuade the courts to alter it in their favour.

Papers relating to the case show a family deeply divided, with the businessman's children accusing him of being volatile and abusive throughout his life, and paranoid and mistrustful in his latter years.

By contrast, Mr Stewart's executors claim the millionaire deliberately snubbed his children in his will, alleging he had not seen them in years and felt rejected by them.

The papers say Mr Stewart's relationship with his sons broke down in 1998 and 1999 after a row about

money. As a result, he disinherited Garry, 47, and Calum Stewart, 43.

At the time, he was on better terms with daughters Linden Stewart, 44, and Leonie Griffin, 42, and planned to leave them farms near Dunfermline, Fife, each bequest worth more than £1 million.

But on April 2, 2008, he signed an amendment to his will that cut off his daughters. Only 27 days later, he died from a rare type of cancer.

His new will left almost all of his wealth to the Alfred Stewart Trust, set up to help health charities, particularly those involved in cancer treatment. Mr Stewart's second wife, Barbara, died of skin cancer in 1999.

The will only outlined two per-

sonal bequests. It stipulated that his friend and lover for the last eight years of his life, Fiona Hay, should receive £2,000 a month net of tax for life, and left part of his estate to his step-grandson, Toby Kennedy.

His children claim their father had a paranoid personality disorder and was violent and abusive to them and their mother, Lynne Buchan, his first wife. They also allege he began his relationship with Barbara in 1968 when their mother was pregnant and it continued for years. He was divorced from her in 1986.

He married Barbara in 1989 but his children claim he was abusive to her as well, even breaking one of her ribs during an assault. The case is to be heard next month.



**ALFRED STEWART:** Property empire