

By **Dave Finlay**

HE was a multi-millionaire property tycoon who formed a charitable trust in memory of his wife.

But yesterday a judge branded Alfred Stewart a sexual predator who was 'careless for the feelings of others'.

The revelations came at the Court of Session as Lord Brailsford refused to overturn Mr Stewart's will after his children challenged the twice-married father-of-four's bequests.

The decision came despite evidence that Mr Stewart, of Crossford, Fife, had propositioned other women and sexually abused a four-year-old child.

His first wife, Lynne Buchan, told

### 'No evidence of delusion'

the court her former husband had been verbally and physically abusive towards her.

Mr Stewart, 71, left a £6.7million fortune, largely for a charitable trust in memory of his second wife Barbara, when he died in 2008. His two sons and two daughters were left out of the will following a family disagreement dating back to 1997.

The children - Garry and Calum Stewart, Linden Stephen and Leonie Griffin - raised an action to set aside their father's 2005 will and later amendments.

But Lord Brailsford yesterday rejected it, saying that while Mr Stewart was capable of ruthlessness, there was 'no evidence of delusional thinking after 1997'.

He added: 'He seems to have been sexually predatory, selfish and careless for the feelings and well-being of others. That is, however, irrelevant so far as the present action is concerned. The behaviour described may be repugnant but it does not in my view shed light on the testator's capacity, or lack

# Will row tycoon labelled a 'sexual predator'

thereof, to dispose of his estate by testamentary disposition.'

The judge said he was satisfied that Mr Stewart, who received an MBE from the Queen in 2007, behaved in an abusive way towards his first wife and committed adultery with the woman who later became his second.

He added: 'For reasons that were not explained in evidence, and are perhaps incapable of explanation, the testator also behaved in a distant and remote way towards the children of his first marriage.'

'He seems to have shown them less love and emotional support

than one would expect and hope to see from a parent. At the same time, as the testator was behaving in this way towards his wife and children, he pursued a highly successful business career as a builder and property developer, the fruits of which labours resulted in his becoming a wealthy man.'

Lord Brailsford said evidence surrounding sexual abuse allegations came from an affidavit which he was prepared 'with hesitation' to accept as accurate. He added: 'The evidence is of sexual assaults perpetrated by the testator on the deponent, starting when she was

about four years old. The assaults were plainly very serious criminal behaviour, albeit I use that characterisation very cautiously against a person who is dead and who has had no opportunity to respond to the allegations.'

Psychiatrists testified that Mr Stewart had a paranoid personality disorder. But the judge said his children were required to show that the will and amendments were the result of thinking that was 'truly the result of mental disorder'.

He added: 'Mere antipathy towards his children, prejudice, intolerance or even caprice will not suffice.'



Honour: Alfred Stewart receives his MBE