

ENFIELD

Jarmoc Siblings Fight In Court

Probate Battle Over Dad's Estate

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ENFIELD — Longtime tobacco farmer and well-known political figure Stephen Jarmoc and his sister are locked in a probate battle over their father's estate.

Probate court filings in July by Laura Jarmoc Eggleston, who lives in New Hampshire, and her attorney seek the removal of Stephen Jarmoc as the executor of their father's estate. Court documents show Eggleston claims that Jarmoc failed to file complete and accurate documents on time.

Probate Judge O. James Purnell III denied the request in two orders, the most recent of which was signed Aug. 12. In denying the request, Purnell also ordered Jarmoc to "set aside and protect Laura Jarmoc's share of the estate as soon as possible."

Their father, Edwin A. Jarmoc, died in June 2009 at 83. His will left the farm and real estate assets to Jarmoc, and 75 percent of an investment account to Eggleston. The other 25 percent of the account went to Jarmoc.

Eggleston said Jarmoc failed to file a complete inventory of the estate, appraisals for the tobacco farm and real estate holdings, a list of creditors and other filings, by agreed upon deadlines.

She also said in court documents that a hearing in June revealed conflicts of interest, "some of which clearly appear to have resulted in improper self-dealing to the detriment of the Estate and its beneficiaries."

She wrote that Pioneer Farm Credit has a \$7.3 million claim on the estate and that Pioneer loans were used to purchase or refinance real estate by Stephen Jarmoc and his wife, Democratic state Rep. Karen Jarmoc.

Purnell's Aug. 12 order included requests that Jarmoc must provide documentation about the Pioneer claim.

Jarmoc said the judge's dismissal of the claim to remove him as executor is an affirmation that he found no problems with the estate and that there are "valid extensions for all the documents."

Jarmoc said Thursday that he is still working on filing paperwork in the process of settling the estate.

"We're doing everything we're supposed to as timely as we can," he said. "It's a mountain of paperwork."

He said he hopes the estate case will not be used against his wife in her campaign for the state Senate in the November elections. She said she is not involved in the probate case and that it is between siblings.

"It's unfortunate that my probate issue has to be used for politics," Stephen Jarmoc said. "My wife can run on her merits."

Neither Eggleston nor Thomas Tyler, her attorney, could be reached for comment.