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31 March 2008

Gilbert Stephens Solicitors  
15-17 Southernhay East  
Exeter EX1 1QE

Dear Mr Walford,

**Re: The Estate of Graham Sheppard  
Probate Claim HC07C01317  
Your client: Margaret Sheppard  
Without Prejudice Save as to Costs**

It appears from the letter sent to you by the Court on 26 March that there will now have to be a hearing to consider whether the case was settled or not. As far as I can see the settlement broke down for two main reasons. One - on 15 December at the RCJ, I was not aware that I would need to sign a consent for the 2004 Will to replace the 2005 one. This would be tantamount to lying, which I am not prepared to do. Two - there is no good reason, in the circumstances, why I cannot have official confirmation from Lloyds TSB of the payee of the cheque which appears on the joint account statement, dated 13 October 2004.

It has now been almost four months since I first requested such confirmation, or sight of the cheque, and your client's refusal simply reinforces my suspicion that she and you have lied about the payee. After all, your client did lie about my father having no other financial statements for October 2004 (see your letter of 26 October 2007).

I made an Application to the Court on 6 March for an Order requiring disclosure of the cheque by Lloyds TSB.

You said in a letter to me that by agreeing in principle to settle, I had accepted that the 2004 Will was valid. That is insulting, because I now know from personal knowledge and factual deduction that the 2004 Will cannot have been validly executed.

Since the December last year it has come to my attention, from examination of the transcript of the 15 March 2007 hearing, that the Court was lied to about when my father signed the 2005 Will. From a letter Mr Roberts sent to me, it is clear that my father was in no fit state to sign that Will at any time after he was dropped at the hospital by your client. He signed it beforehand, most likely on the 2 August 2005.

Following this up with examination of the three Wills (2002, 2004 and 2005), it is obvious that only the 2002 Will was validly executed. The evidence on the face of the Wills supports my version of events, which is the truth.

I invite you and Margaret now to find a more equitable way to settle this matter, so I am not left out of pocket and do not have to join your client in lying about the validity of the 2004 Will. Perhaps you could also have an totally independent third party inspect the cheque, and relay to me the payee.

Many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ian Sheppard", with a horizontal line underneath it.

Ian Sheppard