



## Ensuring Fair Play in Estate Administration: The Estate of Keisha Lagrandeur

**Legal Opinion and Summary:** *Lagrandeur Estate (Re), 2021 ONSC 3447*

**Case Overview:** The Honourable Madam Justice K.E. Cullin of the Superior Court of Justice - Ontario presided over a pivotal case concerning the Estate of Keisha Lagrandeur, who tragically died in a motor vehicle accident at the age of 41. This case highlights the complexities of estate administration and the importance of clear, valid testamentary documents.

**RE:** In the Estate of Keisha Lagrandeur (also known as Keisha Ann Andrews and Keisha Andrews)

**Gaetan Lagrandeur, Moving Party**

**AND:**

**Noah Lagrandeur and Yvon Cloutier, Responding Parties**

### Key Parties:

- **Gaetan Lagrandeur:** Keisha's estranged spouse, seeking to be appointed as the estate trustee.
- **Noah and Evan Lagrandeur:** Keisha's children, aged 19 and 17 respectively.
- **Yvon Cloutier:** Alleged common-law partner of Keisha, opposing Gaetan's application.

**Background:** Keisha Lagrandeur passed away in December 2019, leaving behind her two children and unresolved divorce proceedings with her estranged husband, Gaetan. At the time of her death, Keisha had a will from 2004 and a significant life insurance policy.

### Issues Addressed by the Court

**Validity of the Will:** The court questioned whether Keisha's 2004 will met the legal standards under the [Succession Law Reform Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. S-26](#) [para 16-26]. The will contained both typewritten and handwritten instructions, raising concerns about its legitimacy.

**Appointment of Estate Trustee:** Gaetan's application to be appointed as estate trustee was challenged by Noah and Yvon due to potential conflicts of interest and Gaetan's lack of financial support to his children post-Keisha's death [para 40-52].

**Claims Against the Estate:** Potential claims include child and spousal support, property division, and life insurance beneficiary disputes [para 27-39].

### Court's Findings and Directions

**Denial of Gaetan's Application:** The court denied Gaetan's application to be appointed as estate trustee due to conflicts of interest and his failure to provide financial support to his children [para 48-52].



**Validation of the Will:** Parties were directed to provide evidence regarding the handwritten portions of the will to establish its validity [para 54b].

**Future Proceedings:** Directions were given for the appointment of an interim estate trustee and potential claims against the estate, including the substantial life insurance policy [paras 54 a-f].

**Relevant Statutes:**

- *Succession Law Reform Act, RSO 1990, c S-26:* Governs the validity and execution of wills.
- *Estates Act, RSO 1990, c E21:* Provides the court's authority in appointing estate trustees [paras 45-47].
- *Family Law Act, RSO 1990, c F3:* Addresses the equalization of net family property and support obligations [paras 30-34].

**Conclusion:** This case underscores the importance of ensuring wills and testamentary documents meet legal standards to avoid complications in estate administration. The court's decision reflects a commitment to fair and just estate management, prioritizing the best interests of the beneficiaries. [Click here](#) for see the full decision.

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