

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX DIVISION

PROBATE AND FAMILY
COURT DEPARTMENT
DOCKET NO.: 02P5533AA

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IN RE: ESTATE OF BENJAMIN C. THOMPSON)
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AFFIDAVIT OF BARBARA GAGE COOGAN

I, Barbara Gage Coogan, of 1340 Commonwealth Avenue, Apartment 14, Boston, Massachusetts, hereby depose and state as follows:

1. I knew Benjamin C. Thompson ("Ben"), who died on August 17, 2002. I have no interest in Ben's estate.

2. I was hired in 1998 by Ben's second wife, Jane Thompson ("Jane"), to help Ben write his memoirs. I had frequent contact with Ben from the time I was hired until his death. During this time, Jane ~~tried to fire me four times~~ tried to fire me four times, refusing to pay me for intervals at a time - a situation that would upset Ben greatly. Ben told me he missed my company and the mental stimulation of these times, that he felt lonely when I did not visit. In fact, he wanted Jane to increase my hours, but that was out of the question, as Jane told Ben that I made too much money already. It was only due to the intervention of Jane's daughter, Sheila, with whom I had a good rapport, that I continued to work for Ben until his death. Ben told me I was very important to his happiness. Sheila understood this and made sure that I continued to work with Ben.

3. During the time I worked for Ben, I always observed Ben to have warm feelings for and close relationships with his children: Debbie, Tony, Marina, Nick, and ~~Ben~~ Ben, Jr.

4. One of my tasks was to write letters for Ben at his request. One night I got a call from Jane, who was in a rage. She yelled and screamed at me, saying that she had to see every letter Ben wrote prior to it being sent out. She berated me, saying that I would have to give her the actual letters to be sent, so that Jane would be the last person to see them before they were sent out. I did this for all letters except the ones to Ben's children, because I wanted to be sure that they actually went out, and in the form of communication that Ben had intended. I thought that Jane's having to see Ben's letters, especially to his own children, was ridiculous and overstepped certain boundaries. Ben told me that Jane edited everything Ben wrote and "took the life out of it." I saw an example of this in July 1998, when Ben and I

which I left Jane copies of,