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Perth woman defends use of ill mum's money

July 30th, 2019, 05:20PM | Written by AAP | [Wanneroo Times](https://www.communitynews.com.au/wanneroo-times/)(<https://www.communitynews.com.au/wanneroo-times/>)
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Siham Carollisen. Picture: Megan Powell/The West Australian

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A DAUGHTER accused of stealing almost \$140,000 from her Alzheimer's-affected mother has testified in a Perth court that she

had permission to spend the money, while her brother has also

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Carollisen's parents separated in 2012 and later that year her 54-year-old mother Amina was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's.

Amina moved in with her daughter, whose husband later suffered a brain injury from a motorcycle accident in February 2014, the court heard on Tuesday.



Siham Carollisen. Picture: Megan Powell/The West Australian

Carollisen testified that at a birthday event in March 2012, her mother told her the money from the divorce settlement was for her to use.

After her parents' home was sold in July 2014, Carollisen transferred about \$275,000 into an account she shared with her husband, rather than into her mother's account.

She told the jury she used the money for her mother's care including a carer, visits to the hairdresser and massages.



But under cross-examination, the mother of two admitted she also received massages during the spa visits.

Prosecutor Ryan Arndt alleged Carollisen also used the money for vehicle expenses, theatre tickets, jewellery and other items.

The court heard the Public Trustee was appointed administrators of Amina's estate in June 2015. She died in September 2016.

Carollisen's brother Mirwan, 28, testified that his sister and mother had an "amazing" relationship.

"They were, in every essence, best friends," he said.

Mr Carollisen said his mother gave her consent for his sister to get full access to the money following the divorce settlement.

When asked whether he had any difficulty with that, Mr Carollisen replied: "Not at all."

Former Mercy Care support worker Michaela Barlow also told the jury Carollisen had a good relationship with her mother.

At one point, Ms Barlow began crying, which prompted Carollisen to also weep, as Ms Barlow described her bond with the "perfect" family.

The trial continues.



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