

POLICE & COURTS

Sisters refused administrator rights over father's estate

Sisters living rent-free in their father's home have failed to talk their way into administering his estate.

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TWO sisters living rent-free in their elderly father's property have failed to convince Tasmania's legal system that they should also be allowed to administer his estate.

Justice Stephen Estcourt, in a Supreme Court judgment, said the women could not appeal a finding that it was a conflict of interest for them to live in the property for free while also managing their father's estate in his best interests.

The women attempted to appeal the Guardianship and Administration Board decision, claiming it didn't consider whether the man wished for his daughters to continue living in the house so it would be kept "in the family".

In July last year, the board appointed the Public Trustee as administrator of the man's estate, noting the potential for a conflict between the women's interests and their father's interests, in case the property should be sold to fund his aged care accommodation.

Lawyers for the Attorney-General argued the board's decision did not raise any questions of law, which the sisters needed in order to be granted leave to appeal.

Justice Estcourt agreed, noting the board made its findings based on evidence and did not pay "mere lip service" to the requirements underpinning its decision.

He dismissed the appeal and refused the women leave to appeal.