

STATE OF MAINE
LINCOLN, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT
Docket No. RE-18-08

LEOL CORSON,)
Plaintiff)
)
vs.)
)
JACOB BECK & JILL BECK,)
Defendants.)

DEPOSITION OF: JOHN CORSON

Taken before Heather M. Williams, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maine, at the Law Offices of Gallagher, Villeneuve & DeGeer, at 181 Main Street, Damariscotta, Maine, on Thursday, February 14, 2019, commencing at 1:04 P.M., pursuant to notice given.

 ORIGINAL

APPEARANCES:

For the Plaintiff:

DENIS CULLEY, ESQ.
CRYSTAL ROY

For the Defendants:

JONATHAN M. DAVIS, ESQ.

Also present

Laurie McLean Reckendorf
Jacob Beck
Jill Beck
Leol Corson

INDEX OF EXAMINATION

<u>Examination By:</u>	<u>Page</u>
Mr. Davis:	4, 42
Mr. Culley:	29

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

<u>Deposition Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u>
1	Photograph	18
2	Photograph	18
3	Photograph	25

STIPULATIONS

1
2 It is hereby agreed by and between the parties
3 that signature is waived.

4 *****

5 JOHN CORSON, having been duly sworn by the Notary
6 Public, was examined and deposed as follows:

EXAMINATION

7
8 BY MR. DAVIS:

9 Q Sir, my name is Jonathan Davis.

10 A Okay.

11 Q I'm the attorney for Jacob and Jill Beck. We're here
12 for your deposition.

13 Have you ever been deposed before?

14 A No.

15 Q Well, I'm going to go through some of the ground
16 rules.

17 A Okay.

18 Q If any of the ground rules seem confusing, just jump
19 right in and clarify -- and I'll clarify.

20 A I have one question before we start.

21 Q Sure.

22 A Why didn't you tell me that all these people were
23 going to be here when you do this? You didn't tell
24 me that.

25 Q I didn't know who was going to be here, sir. I knew

1 I was going to be here, I knew Mr. Culley was going
2 to be here, I knew the court reporter was going to be
3 here.

4 A Yes, I figured that. But I didn't think my father or
5 these two would be here.

6 Q They're the parties to the litigation, sir.

7 A I know. But I didn't think they'd be here while I
8 answered questions. You did not tell me that.

9 Q And you did not ask me, sir.

10 A I didn't ask you because I didn't think I had to.

11 Q So are you ready -- are you ready to proceed?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. So we're being recorded by the court reporter.

14 A Yes.

15 Q And that means that in order for the court reporter
16 to make an accurate transcript, only one of us should
17 speak at a time.

18 A Okay.

19 Q So I'll endeavor to let you finish your answer before
20 I ask the next question.

21 A Yes.

22 Q And I'd ask you to do that same for me.

23 A Yes.

24 Q Okay. Since we're being recorded, only verbal
25 responses, yes, no responses; a shake of a head and

1 ah-ha or uh-uhs are hard for the recorder to pick up.

2 A Okay.

3 Q So a verbal response would be great.

4 If there is a word that might have more than one
5 spelling or a word that's not in common usage, if
6 you'd slow down and spell that word to make sure we
7 get it right, that would be helpful as well, all
8 right?

9 A Okay.

10 Q Now, what's going to happen is I'm going to ask you
11 questions and you're going to answer questions. Mr.
12 Culley, your father's attorney, may object. If you
13 hear Mr. Culley say objection, I'd ask you to stop
14 talking immediately. Mr. Culley and I may discuss
15 the objection, and I may ask you to answer the
16 question anyway. And generally speaking, the only
17 time that you would not answer a question is if
18 you're being asked to talk about something that was
19 attorney-client privilege, something that you're
20 under no legal obligation to answer. Okay?

21 A Yes.

22 Q If I ask you a question and you don't know what I'm
23 asking, please ask me to clarify. I'm not here to
24 try and trick you or trip you up, okay?

25 A Yes.

1 Q If you need to take a break, step outside, go to the
2 bathroom, get a drink of water, get some fresh air,
3 no problem. Just let -- let us know and we'll take a
4 break. I would ask that if you want to take a break,
5 we do so after you answer a pending question. Okay?

6 A Okay.

7 Q Any questions about the ground rules?

8 A No.

9 Q Okay.

10 A Not so far.

11 Q Is there anything we should know about that makes it
12 difficult or hard for you to understand questions
13 that I may ask? Are you hard-of-hearing, anything
14 like that?

15 A I'm not hard-of-hearing, no.

16 Q Okay.

17 A Sometimes I don't understand things, so you might
18 have to say the question again.

19 Q I'll be happy to do so.

20 A And if it's some questions I don't remember, that's
21 what I'm going to say, I don't remember.

22 Q Okay. Fair enough.

23 A Because I've had a lot of -- lot of things happen to
24 me over the last past year, and some things I don't
25 want to remember. So how about that?

1 Q Understood.

2 So would you say and spell your name?

3 A John Corson, J-O-H-N, C-O-R-S-O-N.

4 Q What's your current address, sir?

5 A 1001 Bristol Road, Apartment B, Bristol, Maine,
6 04539.

7 Q Would you tell me your educational background?

8 A Graduated from Lincoln Academy.

9 Q And your work history, are you currently employed?

10 A Work at C.E. Reilly & Son in New Harbor.

11 Q And what do you do there, sir?

12 A I work in the kitchen, I stock shelves. I do about
13 everything.

14 Q And have you ever been convicted of a crime that was
15 a felony in the State of Maine or in any other
16 jurisdiction?

17 A No.

18 Q Have you ever been convicted of a crime involving
19 dishonesty, such as forgery, theft by deception, even
20 if it's not a felony?

21 A No.

22 Q Okay. Who is your father, sir?

23 A Leol Corson.

24 Q Would you describe your current relationship with
25 your father?

1 A He's my father. I lived with him until he asked me
2 to leave the house. He -- I get along with him. I'm
3 trying to build my relationship with my father again
4 now.

5 Q Now, you mentioned you lived with him. At some
6 point -- and you lived with him at 913 Bristol Road?

7 A No. 1913 --

8 Q 1913, excuse me.

9 A -- Bristol Road. Yes.

10 Q How long did you live there?

11 A All my life. I was born and raised in the house. My
12 mother passed away. I took care of my grandmother, I
13 took care of my mother with cancer. I was taking
14 care of my father until my father asked me to leave.
15 There was a reason why my father asked me to leave.
16 But that's not your question, so I'll leave that
17 alone.

18 Q And directing your attention -- when did you move out
19 of 1913 Bristol Road?

20 A I don't know exactly the date. That's why I told
21 you, I don't -- I don't remember the date.

22 Q Do you recall what year it was?

23 A 2018 I do believe it was, he asked me to leave.

24 Q Well, so -- and I'm not trying to trick you up.

25 A Or it could be 2017. That's why I told you, I'm

1 not --

2 Q Okay.

3 A -- I'm not sure on the date when I was told to leave.

4 Q Fair enough.

5 Now, directing your attention to the year before
6 you moved out, are you with me?

7 A Yes.

8 Q How were finances in the home taken care of? Who
9 paid what?

10 A My father paid the mortgage, I paid the light bill, I
11 paid the cable bill, we -- we split some of the
12 bills. We -- we took care of it. If I didn't have
13 the money to pay for it and -- he took care of it.
14 We paid together. We paid everything together.

15 Q And during the last year that you were living at the
16 house, were there any other adults besides you and
17 your father living there?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And who else lived at the house?

20 A Shane Sykes and Jonica Higgins and my brother Joseph
21 and his wife Liz.

22 Q And can you spell -- do you know how to spell the
23 last name of Sykes?

24 A Yes. S-Y-K-E-S, Sykes.

25 Q And you mentioned the first name of someone named

1 Jonica. Do you know how to spell --

2 A Jonica.

3 Q Do you know how to spell that?

4 A J-O-N-I-C-A, I do believe.

5 Q Why did you move out of the Bristol Road property?

6 A Because my father asked me to leave.

7 Q Do you know why he asked you to leave?

8 A I do.

9 Q And why was that?

10 A Because they came, and -- Jill came to take care of
11 her grandfather.

12 Q And so you just pointed at Jill and Jacob Beck?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. And was it a pleasant situation when you moved
15 out or was it tense? Will you describe that for me?

16 A Very tense, because someone called the cops. It was
17 supposed to only be my father and I there when I was
18 moving my stuff out. It was going to be civil; it
19 was no fight. My father and I had an agreement, and
20 someone called the cops.

21 Q And do you know who called the cops?

22 A And -- do I?

23 Q Yes.

24 A I have two people in mind. I'm not positive who done
25 it, but I do believe the two people I'm looking at

1 was involved.

2 Q Well --

3 A And my niece Katie.

4 Q Well, and again, sir, I apologize, I'm not trying to
5 be rude, but since the court reporter is --

6 A Oh, I'm sorry.

7 Q -- typing things up --

8 A Her name is Jill and Jake Beck, and Katie Corson I do
9 believe was involved. I'm not sure which one called
10 the cops, but I don't think that was necessary.

11 Q So --

12 A There again, I don't think anyone should have been
13 there but just my father and I. Because we had a
14 verbal agreement that it would be fine for me to come
15 and get my stuff, wasn't going to be no fight over
16 it, we already talked what I could have, what he was
17 keeping. It was no -- it was no beef. My father and
18 I, we didn't want any problems. Did we, Dad?

19 Q So -- and unfortunately, your dad's -- can't answer
20 questions today.

21 So when you -- let me try that again. So you
22 moved out on one day and then came back to get your
23 stuff? Is that what I understood?

24 A I -- I moved out. I found a place to go live. And I
25 got that place to live. And I asked him, I said I

1 can't take everything that first time that I left. I
2 just took my bed and that stuff and I left. And I
3 said I need -- I need some time to arrange for people
4 to help me to move my stuff. And I did. I only had
5 two other people -- three other people there with me
6 moving stuff, other than Liz. She was moving her
7 stuff, too, because it was there.

8 Q So after you moved out, did -- did Ms. Sykes, Jonica,
9 Joe, and Liz continue to live in the house; do you
10 know?

11 A No. Joe and Liz came and lived with me. Jonica and
12 Shane lived in the house with my father.

13 Q So --

14 A They stayed there.

15 Q So you, your brother, and Liz moved out about the
16 same time?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Do you know why your brother and Liz moved out?

19 A They moved with me to go live with me because he
20 asked them to -- for me to take my brother and my
21 sister-in-law with me.

22 Q And why -- why were you asked to leave?

23 A I really don't know to this day. So --

24 Q Now --

25 A I do believe because Jill and Jake come and they were

1 going to take care of my father and he wanted them to
2 take care of him and not me anymore. That's only
3 thing I really know.

4 Q Now, in terms of taking care of your father, will you
5 describe -- again focusing -- let's talk on the last
6 year that you lived with your father.

7 A Okay.

8 Q Last approximate year. I understand dates aren't
9 real solid, but about the last --

10 A No, they're not with me. I'm sorry, but dates
11 aren't.

12 Q Well, about -- if we focus on the most recent year
13 that you lived with your father, what was your
14 responsibility, if any, for his care?

15 A I took him to his doctors' appointments, I made sure
16 he took his medicine, he had insulin, I cooked all
17 the meals. I -- I watched over him. I did
18 everything I could to take care of my father, like my
19 mother asked me to on her death bed.

20 Q And when you moved out, do you know who took over
21 those roles?

22 A I do believe -- I was told by him Jill and Jake were
23 going to do it.

24 Q Do you know if they actually did do it or did
25 somebody else do it or --

1 A I have no idea.

2 Q Fair enough.

3 A I was asked to leave, so -- I don't know if I should
4 look at him when I answer or to you. I'm sorry.

5 Q Mr. Corson, you're doing fine.

6 Were you aware if whether at some point in time
7 the property, the house at 1913 Bristol Road was
8 owned by your father free and clear?

9 A No. He had a mortgage. He did not own the house.

10 Q Were you aware of the reason why your father had a
11 mortgage?

12 A Part of it I do believe is because we had to pay
13 for -- out my -- our mother's, his wife's, however I
14 should answer that, funeral. And he consolidated
15 some of his debt and paid it off.

16 Q And were any of your debts consolidated with that
17 payoff?

18 A He did put some of it in there, that -- and that's
19 some of it, yes.

20 Q Do you recall about how much of your debts were paid
21 with the mortgage?

22 A I don't.

23 Q Did you ever have a Power of Attorney for your
24 father?

25 A Yes. I was his legal guardian and Power of Attorney,

1 yes.

2 Q And are you aware of whether you still are?

3 A I know I'm not. My brother Matthew is his Power of
4 Attorney and legal guardian. I have been told that.

5 Q And do you recall when you were told that changed?

6 A I'm not sure when that was changed.

7 Q Were there any occasions during the period that you
8 had the Power of Attorney that you had to use it to
9 manage your father's affairs?

10 A No. He took care of his own affairs.

11 Q Was there ever a time when you made any threats to
12 your father about using the Power of Attorney?

13 A Sometime -- I -- maybe once.

14 I don't really remember. That's a trick
15 question.

16 Q Well, can you describe the maybe once that you might
17 remember?

18 A I don't really remember it, that's why.

19 Q Was there a time when you were living at the house --
20 and again focusing on the last couple of years, I'm
21 not asking for, you know, when you were a boy -- the
22 last couple of years when you were living in the
23 house where you limited Leol's contact -- your
24 father's contact with friends and family members?

25 A No. I never did that.

1 Q Was there a line drawn down the garage floor at the
2 house?

3 A What?

4 Q I'm going to show you a photograph. And there's a
5 couple of pictures on it. Would you take a look at
6 the bottom photograph, has the number 2 next to it?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Have you seen that before?

9 A Yes, I did.

10 Q And what's that?

11 A That would be where we had problems -- he wanted to
12 take over the whole garage and put all his junk, as I
13 called it, his shop and all that stuff in it. And I
14 was trying to keep a space clean. And it really
15 wasn't John's; I wanted a space so he could walk to
16 his shop safely and not trip over all his wood
17 projects and stuff. I was trying to find a safe area
18 for him to walk through the garage.

19 Q And if you take a look at the top photograph with the
20 little number 1 next to it, can you tell me what that
21 is?

22 A That's a picture of the north side of the house.

23 Q And are you familiar that there's an outflow down
24 near the rock in the lower left-hand corner of that?

25 A I did not know that, no.

1 Q Are you aware --

2 A That might go -- I don't know. Maybe that's the
3 drain for the cellar basement. I'm not sure on that.

4 MR. DAVIS: Denis, I'm going to mark this as
5 Number 1.

6 (Deposition Exhibit Number 1 was marked
7 for identification.)

8 MR. CULLEY: And that would be for both?

9 MR. DAVIS: Correct.

10 MR. CULLEY: Yes.

11 MR. DAVIS: I realize I should have used letters
12 for the photographs, and I did not.

13 BY MR. DAVIS:

14 Q I'm going to hand you -- I ran out of fancy
15 photograph paper, as I explained to Mr. Culley
16 earlier today. I'm going to hand you a larger
17 picture of -- it's a zoom of the far left-hand corner
18 of the picture that you said is at the north side of
19 the house. Are you aware of whether that outflow is
20 the septic?

21 A That is not the septic.

22 Q I'm going to mark this --

23 (Deposition Exhibit Number 2 was marked
24 for identification.)

25 A I do know that, because I know where the septic is.

1 It's down back.

2 BY MR. DAVIS:

3 Q During the time that you lived at the house, were you
4 aware of any issues with the septic system
5 malfunctioning or discharging raw sewage?

6 A I know we had to have it pumped several times, yes.
7 I know the leach field had problems, but my father
8 and I, we didn't have the money to fix the septic
9 tank, the leach field, no.

10 Q So I apologize, because you said yes and no there a
11 couple of times, so I want to make sure which one
12 you're saying yes to and which one you're saying no
13 to.

14 My question was were you aware of issues with
15 the septic system or the discharge of raw sewage on
16 the property?

17 A No on the raw sewage, because I didn't know that.

18 Q Okay.

19 A And yes, it was problems with the leach field. We
20 knew that, but we couldn't afford to have it fixed.
21 And we had the septic tank pumped -- every few years,
22 we would pump the septic tank so it would be no
23 problem.

24 Q Are you aware that -- are you aware of whether your
25 brother Jayson Corson and his wife -- I always

1 butcher her name -- Kerstin --

2 A Kerstin.

3 Q Kerstin -- thank you, sir -- moved into your father's
4 house after you moved out?

5 A I heard that, but I -- I only heard that through my
6 father.

7 Q Did you think that was a good idea, bad idea, or have
8 no opinion?

9 A I -- I think no opinion would be best.

10 Q Are you aware that Jacob Beck and Jill Beck have
11 purchased your father's house?

12 A I do know that. I saw that.

13 Q And what's your opinion on that?

14 A My opinion?

15 Q Yes, sir.

16 A No comment.

17 Q No comment or no opinion?

18 A No opinion about that.

19 Q What is your opinion of Jacob and Jill Beck?

20 A No comment.

21 MR. DAVIS: Ma'am, I apologize, I can't have you
22 doing hand signals to the deponent. I'm going to
23 have to ask you to leave.

24 MS. RECKENDORF: I'm not doing anything.

25 THE DEPONENT: I haven't even seen her.

1 MR. DAVIS: I see -- I see movement over my
2 shoulder.

3 MS. RECKENDORF: Oh, no, it's lotion. Sorry.
4 Hand lotion.

5 MR. DAVIS: I apologize, then. My mistake.

6 THE DEPONENT: I'm not even looking at her. I
7 was --

8 MR. DAVIS: My mistake. My mistake.

9 THE DEPONENT: I was looking at you.

10 MR. DAVIS: I certainly apologize.

11 MS. RECKENDORF: That's okay.

12 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

13 BY MR. DAVIS:

14 Q Sorry about that, sir.

15 Did you have any communication with Jacob and --
16 Jacob or Jill Beck about retrieving some items from
17 the house after you moved out?

18 A I did, yes.

19 Q And would you describe those conversations?

20 A They were alright at times.

21 Q What's that mean, sir?

22 A They were good, but sometimes I didn't like the
23 answer.

24 Q Can you give me some -- some examples of the sort of
25 items we'd be talking about?

1 A All the pictures in the house, she was supposed to
2 take pictures of and she was supposed to give me
3 copies of them. And as far as I know -- as far as
4 I'm -- I know, because I don't really know, they're
5 still in the house. And they're renting the house,
6 and all my family's pictures are still in the house.
7 And I am upset about that, because I don't have any
8 of my pictures that were on the wall that she
9 promised me that she would give to me. And I haven't
10 seen any of them.

11 Q Do you recall there being discussions either in
12 person or by text with either Mr. or Mrs. Beck about
13 a camp book and a generator?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Can you describe those conversations to me?

16 A Yes. They brought me the camp book that my father
17 had my brother take out of my camp that I owned and I
18 asked everyone in the family not to go to. They did
19 not have the right to go up there and go into my
20 camp. I told everyone to stay out. He had my
21 brother go in and take stuff out of the camp that
22 belonged to me. And it shouldn't have happened.

23 And I -- he asked for his Honda generator back.
24 And I made the deal at my rental house, Jill and Jake
25 came at the time, and they got the generator and I

1 got my books. And I was happy.

2 Q So when you say he, just so --

3 A He is Leol Corson, my father.

4 Q So -- so lawyers put words in people's mouths, and I
5 assure you that's not what I'm trying to do. So I'm
6 asking you to clarify if what I say is incorrect,
7 okay?

8 So your dad had -- your dad had people take
9 things out of the camp that you wanted back, and
10 Jacob or Jill helped with the exchange to get that
11 stuff back?

12 A With a few things.

13 Q Okay.

14 A Yes.

15 Q Will you describe the condition of the -- the yard at
16 1913 Bristol Road when you left? Was it in good
17 shape?

18 A It had stuff that needed to be taken care of. But my
19 father didn't want to get rid of anything. He wanted
20 to keep everything.

21 Q Will you describe the condition of the interior of
22 the house when you left?

23 A The interior of the house, when I married my wife
24 that I ended up divorcing, we put in a new shower, a
25 wheelchair accessible shower for my father, we put in

1 new hardwood floors, we painted in the house before
2 she -- before I married her -- you didn't ask this,
3 but I'm going to throw it out there. We cleaned the
4 whole basement, but one room that my father would not
5 let me in. And I cleaned the whole basement, the
6 whole basement was gutted and cleaned and washed and
7 taken care of.

8 Q So focusing on the time when you moved out, was there
9 a generator hard wired into the house?

10 A Not hard wired. You had to pull it out of the garage
11 and plug it in. And my father still had that. I did
12 not take that generator, it still was there --

13 Q So --

14 A -- when I left.

15 Q Will you tell me how you plugged it into the house?

16 A You had to pull the generator out, you had to pull
17 the choke out, hit the electric start, go over to the
18 side of the house where the cellar door is, get the
19 black cord, plug it into the generator, and it ran
20 the whole house.

21 Q So the house had a generator hookup then --

22 A Yes.

23 Q -- that you would wheel the generator out and start
24 it up and plug it in?

25 A Yes. Yes. Ran the whole house; you could run

1 everything. Only thing we didn't run was the dryer
2 and the microwave.

3 Q And at the time you left the house when you moved
4 out, were you aware of any mold or water issues at
5 the property?

6 A There was some in the basement where I -- where I
7 cleaned the basement. But I had them -- what kind of
8 bags are they? Give me a minute and I'll think of
9 it. Rid -- the Dry -- Dry Rid bags. And we had a
10 couple spots on walls that was moldy, and I washed
11 them all down and I kept them clean with bleach.

12 So when I left, no, it was no mold in the house
13 as far as I'm concerned.

14 Q I'm going to hand you some photographs that I'm going
15 to mark as Deposition Exhibit 3.

16 (Deposition Exhibit Number 3 was marked
17 for identification.)

18 BY MR. DAVIS:

19 Q There are three photographs on there numbered 1, 2,
20 and 3.

21 MR. CULLEY: I just want to clarify, these were
22 taken when he left the house?

23 MR. DAVIS: That's what I'm about to -- I'm
24 going to follow up.

25 MR. CULLEY: Oh.

1 BY MR. DAVIS:

2 Q So at the time you left the house when you moved out,
3 was there any mold or water spots near one of the
4 ceiling light fixtures?

5 A It was a water spot, yes.

6 Q Like in Number 3?

7 A Yes.

8 Q At the time you moved out, look at the photograph
9 that has a little number 1 next to, it looks like
10 there's a -- maybe a brick chimney that's been
11 painted?

12 A That -- that is a water spot because the roof was
13 leaking and we had to have the roof fixed. But we
14 never did get to fix the ceiling in the house.

15 Q And if you take a look at photo number 2 --

16 A I don't even know where that is.

17 Q You never saw anything like that in the house?

18 A Not when I left.

19 Q At the time you left?

20 A Not that I know of when I left, no.

21 Q So number 3 -- number 1 is what it was like when you
22 left. Number 2 -- number 3 is what it was like when
23 you left --

24 A Yes.

25 Q -- but not number 2?

1 A I don't remember number 2.

2 Q Okay.

3 A No. I don't even know where that is, so -- I'm
4 trying to figure it out by the picture. Not -- as
5 far as I'm concerned, no.

6 Q Okay.

7 A I don't think that was like that.

8 Q So 1, yes --

9 A I don't remember it.

10 Q 1, yes; 3, yes; 2, you don't recall?

11 A That's right.

12 Q Okay. Fair enough.

13 Who was Mae Fitch?

14 A Who?

15 Q Mae Fitch, F-I-T-C-H?

16 A Her name was Florida Fitch.

17 Q Florida Mae Fitch, excuse me.

18 A Was my grandmother.

19 Q Do you recall when she passed away?

20 A I don't.

21 Q Was it -- do you recall whether it was awhile ago,
22 short time ago?

23 A It was a long -- quite awhile ago, I would say.

24 Q What happened to her possessions; if you know?

25 A What happened to her possessions?

1 Q Yes.

2 A I don't know where all of them went.

3 Q Do you recall whether --

4 A I had a few, some -- some placemats and stuff in the
5 house with my father. But when I left, I didn't get
6 any of them.

7 Q Do you recall when Florida Mae Fitch passed away if
8 the family dealt with her personal property in what
9 you would describe or feel is a fair and reasonable
10 way?

11 A We had to deal with it the way we had to deal with
12 it. Because my brother Leonard, that would be Jill
13 Beck's father, threatened to charge me, because I was
14 my grandmother's legal guardian and Power of Attorney
15 while she was in a nursing home, that if I didn't
16 clean out the house in a short amount of time, and I
17 don't remember what that time was that he gave me, I
18 would be charged with -- she -- her estate would be
19 charged rent for his property. And I didn't know
20 that it was his house; I thought it was hers.

21 MR. DAVIS: Can we go off the record and take a
22 break for just a few minutes.

23 MR. CULLEY: Sure.

24 (Off the record at 1:32 P.M. The
25 deposition resumed at 1:38 P.M.)

1 BY MR. DAVIS:

2 Q I don't have any further questions. Mr. Culley may
3 have some questions for you.

4 MR. CULLEY: Sure.

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. CULLEY:

7 Q Hey, John, I'm Denis Culley. I'm your dad's
8 attorney. I work for Legal Services for the Elderly.
9 And I -- I'll have a few questions about -- about the
10 situation during the years you lived with your dad
11 and helped your dad.

12 So -- so during the time you lived with your
13 father, you mentioned -- earlier, you mentioned some
14 home improvements, the shower, the hardwood floor,
15 the painting, cleaning the basement. Those are
16 things you did?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Yes. And during the time you lived with your dad,
19 were the windows replaced in that house?

20 A Yes, they were.

21 Q Yes.

22 A Yes.

23 Q Do you remember about how many windows were replaced?

24 A We replaced them -- we replaced all the windows but
25 the one upstairs in the attic.

1 Q Yes. And what kind of windows --

2 A And the --

3 Q Oh, sorry.

4 A And the one in the dining room by the cook stove.

5 But after I married my wife, she helped me, we -- she

6 helped us, my father and I, and -- because we were

7 living there, she helped us put in the other window.

8 Her son-in-law did the work and didn't -- we didn't

9 have -- he was a contractor and he -- we had the

10 window, we just needed to get parts. And my brother

11 Matthew ordered the parts from Hammond Lumber and we

12 got the window replaced.

13 Q So basically a professional job?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Yes. You mentioned cleaning up the mold in the

16 basement.

17 A Yes.

18 Q A little bit of mold you found. Is that something

19 you -- you and your dad or you did regularly?

20 A I did.

21 Q Yes.

22 A I kept it clean with bleach all the time.

23 Q Yes. And did you build a wheelchair ramp?

24 A I did not. It was a community project thing that

25 came and did it for him. They're called CHIP

1 Program --

2 Q Yes.

3 A -- in the Town of -- Lincoln County. And they put in
4 the new wheelchair ramp on the back for my father so
5 when he had his last surgery that he could get in the
6 house easier than the front porch.

7 Q Do you remember about when the last surgery was, like
8 roughly?

9 A I don't.

10 Q No?

11 A I don't remember.

12 Q I understand.

13 So the windows, the wheelchair ramp. Were there
14 any new water pipes put in during the time you were
15 living there with your dad?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Can you describe that?

18 A We put in new PEX tubing that I paid for myself.
19 MacPhee Enterprise put all new PEX tubing throughout
20 the whole house because the copper pipes were all
21 rusted and rotten. So --

22 Q Who is MacPhee -- I don't know them.

23 A He -- he was a plumber that my brother worked for.

24 Q So that -- that was a professional job?

25 A Yes, it was.

1 Q Yes. And what about was there a propane furnace put
2 into the house?

3 A Yes, my father got one -- we got one from Colby &
4 Gale. But I don't remember when that was put in.

5 Q And --

6 A When I left, it was still working.

7 Q Yes. Do you know why a new furnace was put in?

8 A The old one just -- it's been there all them years
9 and it just stopped working. We had to have a new
10 furnace to heat the house, and we got what we could
11 afford.

12 Q Sure.

13 A Because it still wasn't big enough to heat every room
14 in the house, but it heated most of the house.

15 Q Do you know who put it in?

16 A Colby & Gale.

17 Q Oh, yes.

18 A I don't remember the guys that did it, but Colby &
19 Gale did the work.

20 Q And house painting, was there any house painting done
21 on that house --

22 A Yes.

23 Q -- during the time you and your dad were living
24 there?

25 A I hired Stu Mason and him and Mike Smerdon painted

1 the house.

2 Q Are they professional house painters?

3 A Yes, they were.

4 Q And do you have a rough idea when that might have
5 been?

6 A I don't remember the dates. I'm sorry.

7 Q Yes, sure.

8 Now, I saw that house had a three-car garage?

9 A Yes.

10 Q When did that go in about?

11 A My mother and father had that put in, but I don't
12 remember when. It was before my mother passed away.

13 Q Yes.

14 A Because she used to park her car in there.

15 Q And who built that garage?

16 A Mark Pryor and his crew.

17 Q They're carpenters, are they?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Yes.

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. And what about the floors in the house, was
22 there any work done on the floors, hardwood floors?

23 A Yes. My wife and I put them in.

24 Q Put what in?

25 A The hardwood floors.

1 Q Can you describe that?

2 A We put in click lock flooring.

3 Q What's it called?

4 A Click lock flooring, the flooring that clicks
5 together.

6 Q Yes. And --

7 A Her -- her son-in-law, her daughter's husband put
8 them in for us.

9 Q Was he a flooring professional?

10 A He's a local contractor out of Bremen.

11 Q Yes.

12 A And he's professional. He had a crew that came in
13 and done the work. He also put in the new shower
14 that Peggy and I bought.

15 Q So you put a shower in the house too?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Yes. And this was all done you and your dad working
18 together?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Yes.

21 A And my wife.

22 Q And your wife.

23 What other improvements happened during those
24 times when you and your dad were working together
25 living in that house?

1 A We put in new kitchen faucet. We did a lot of
2 improvements. Some of them, I don't remember; but we
3 improved as much as we could.

4 We put a propane heater in the living room.
5 That's before my mother passed away. It was cold in
6 that room, so we put in a propane heater, my mother
7 and father and myself, we put that in. That's why
8 it's two tanks -- why it was two propane tanks.

9 Q One for each --

10 A On the north side, so it would run both the furnace
11 and the heater.

12 Q Any other improvements or maintenance that you
13 remember from those days?

14 A We had work done on the garage doors, new openers and
15 stuff put in.

16 Q Yes.

17 A We did a lot of stuff. I don't remember everything
18 that we did, no.

19 Q Now, earlier when you were talking, you described how
20 you would help your dad.

21 A Yes.

22 Q And was it your view that you were living there --
23 partly living there so your dad could stay there,
24 could -- could continue to live in his home?

25 A Yes.

1 Q And --

2 A I'd still be there if he didn't ask me to leave.

3 Q Sure.

4 And can you describe the help that you gave your
5 dad?

6 A Anything he needed from cooking a meal, taking him to
7 doctors' appointments, finding a way for him to go
8 bowling or going to his card games that he liked to
9 go to. I always tried to arrange for somewhere --
10 someone to take him.

11 Q Yes.

12 A Also when he had his surgeries, I was the one that
13 was there bathing my father, taking care of his
14 wounds and everything, bandaging and everything. No
15 one else was around.

16 Only two other people that helped me were Joe
17 and Liz.

18 Q Yes.

19 A The rest of my family wasn't there, no one -- no one
20 came.

21 Did I ask anyone for help? No, because I had it
22 under control. But did anyone offer? No.

23 Q Yes.

24 A That's not your question, but I'm --

25 Q No; that's --

1 A -- going to throw it out there.

2 Q I -- I understand.

3 So would care for your dad, what kind of wounds
4 were they?

5 A When he had surgeries -- he had to have a toe taken
6 off, and before the toe was taken off, had to be
7 soaked. And he couldn't get the water and the basin
8 to soak his foot and that; I did it.

9 Q Yes.

10 A I took care of him. Whatever he needed, I took care
11 of him. I loved my father. I still do today. Am I
12 upset with him that he asked me to leave? Yes. But
13 I'm working on that relationship, and I hope it can
14 improve.

15 Q Regarding the care and the feeding and transportation
16 that you gave to your dad, do you have any doubt that
17 he could have lived in the home alone without your
18 help?

19 A I think he could have stayed there. He just wasn't
20 good at making meals himself. So someone would have
21 had to help him with that. But -- he would eat hot
22 dogs and that.

23 He could take care of himself for a day or two
24 if he had to be alone, but someone would have to go
25 in and check on him. I would be afraid he would

1 forget to take his -- he wouldn't forget. He
2 wouldn't take his insulin because sometimes he just
3 didn't like doing it.

4 Q Did you help him with his insulin?

5 A When -- when he first got the insulin, I used to have
6 to give it to him until he got used to doing it.

7 Q How do you do that? What -- what did you do?

8 A What did -- he had to lift his shirt up and take an
9 alcohol swipe, he had -- first he had to take his --
10 prick his finger and see what -- what the blood was.
11 And we had to see how much insulin he needed and
12 judge it on a floating scale. And then I would clean
13 his side of his stomach and give him the shot in his
14 stomach with the insulin.

15 And I was instructed on how to do it by the
16 doctor, and the nurses taught me how to do it. So --

17 Q So you were trained in that?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Yes. Did --

20 A And then he started doing it himself. He just didn't
21 like needles; he was afraid of them at first.

22 Q Sure.

23 Did you deal with his medical providers?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Yes. And did you pick up his prescriptions?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Yes. Did you make sure that the -- the propane bills
3 were paid, that sort of thing?

4 A I paid the propane bills.

5 Q Yes.

6 A And when I left, I had four of them that I was still
7 paying for that we used to heat the house. My father
8 didn't pay them; I did. And to this day, I'm still
9 paying one of them.

10 Q Hey, when you lived there, was the septic system
11 functioning?

12 A The septic system worked, as I was saying before. It
13 was a problem with the leach field, but we did not
14 have the money to fix it. We had the septic tank
15 pumped when they told us -- the plumber told us when
16 we needed to do it.

17 Q Sure. So you -- you went on the guidance of the
18 plumber?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Yes. Do you have any training or have you worked
21 around septic systems or leach fields?

22 A No. I don't know anything about it. I always just
23 took the word of the plumber.

24 Q Yes.

25 A Because I have no idea. That's why -- that's

1 their -- the professional. That's why when you have
2 something -- a problem like that, you call the
3 professionals.

4 Q Sure.

5 MR. CULLEY: Hey, could we go off the record for
6 a moment and consult with Crystal.

7 MR. DAVIS: Of course. Yes.

8 MR. CULLEY: Thanks.

9 (Off the record at 1:49 P.M. The
10 deposition resumed at 1:52 P.M.)

11 MR. CULLEY: We'll go back on.

12 BY MR. CULLEY:

13 Q Hey, John, just another question. When you lived at
14 your dad's house, were there shrubs and bushes around
15 the house?

16 A Oh, yes.

17 Q What kind of shrubs and bushes?

18 A I don't remember all of them. We had nice shrubs
19 around the front porch. We had nice trees out front
20 of the house. Years ago when I was growing up, we
21 had a fence there; but that -- we had to get rid of
22 it, rotted away. But we had nice trees there. We
23 had trees in front where you parked on the side by
24 the porch there.

25 We -- I -- it was a special tree there that was

1 my mother's. And to this day, I don't know if it was
2 still there. All over by the garage was a nice
3 railroad bed, put raised bed in. I put that in when
4 my mother had cancer the first time. And I put
5 flowers in there for her, and she really enjoyed it.
6 She could -- she would go out on the front porch.
7 Sometimes when she couldn't get there to look at it
8 herself, she would just stand, I would help her, and
9 look at her garden with all the flowers and stuff in
10 there. And that garden don't exist today. And that
11 was a special garden.

12 And we put in a garden out front by the ramp
13 that was there in front of the house, that was a
14 garden. And we -- my father and I, we grew lettuce
15 and tomatoes and all kinds of veggies, and we used to
16 eat them.

17 Q Yes.

18 A It was good for him with diabetes to eat fresh
19 vegetables, and it was easier to grow them ourselves.
20 We had all kinds of bushes out front. Looked nice.

21 Q Did you help keep up those gardens?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Who mowed the lawn?

24 A I mowed the lawn with my father's help. He -- until
25 he couldn't do it anymore, he mowed with the tractors

1 that were mine.

2 Q Yes. So after -- after he couldn't do it, you did
3 it?

4 A I took care of it.

5 Q You did it by yourself?

6 A I took care of the lawn, I took care of inside the
7 house, I took care of my father. I did what needed
8 to be done so him and I could live there best I
9 could.

10 MR. CULLEY: I don't have anything else.

11 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. DAVIS:

14 Q Just a couple more quick questions, sir.

15 So do you know how long your father owned that
16 house?

17 A I don't remember the year he bought it. It was
18 before I was born.

19 Q And how old are you?

20 A I'm 48.

21 Q And up until the time you moved out when you -- and
22 you previously told me that that was because your
23 father asked you to -- had you lived in that house
24 your entire life?

25 A Yes, I have.

1 Q So that house is more -- was more than 40 years old
2 at least; would you agree?

3 A Yes. But part of it wasn't.

4 Q Yes. Okay.

5 A The main part of the house was older than the other
6 part. The new addition where the living room is and
7 the two bedrooms on the other side towards the garage
8 were new addition. That was put on I think, don't
9 hold me to this, somewhere around where when I was
10 born, I do believe.

11 Q So around 48 years ago was when that was done?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. And you talked about a lot of the work -- when
14 Mr. Culley was asking you questions, you talked about
15 a lot of the work that you had done and you talked
16 about the work that you and your -- your wife had
17 done.

18 A Yes.

19 Q Are you currently married?

20 A No.

21 Q How long have you been divorced?

22 A Been over a year now.

23 Q Okay.

24 A And my wife passed away with brain cancer, so --

25 Q Oh, I'm sorry, sir. I apologize if my questions

1 seemed insensitive and assuming.

2 The mold had to be cleaned up regularly down in
3 the basement?

4 A Not all the time. It would come back once in a while
5 on the lower -- my father had like a little office,
6 we called it. It was my brother Jayson's bedroom for
7 a while, and then he made it his office. On the
8 bottom of the wall would be a little bit of mold
9 would come because the water would come through the
10 cellar door and get down there. And I used to try to
11 keep it cleaned up the best I could. We put it -- my
12 father and I, we put in a sump pump to take care of
13 it.

14 Q If you take a look at the photographs that -- that we
15 looked at previously, would you take a look at Number
16 1? You said that that -- if I remember correctly,
17 that's a photograph on the north side of the house?

18 A Yes, it is.

19 Q You had talked with Mr. Culley about the house being
20 painted. Do you recall the last time the house was
21 painted; to the best of your knowledge?

22 A I want to say like two years, maybe three years ago.
23 But I'm not -- as I said, I'm not good on dates.

24 Q And you had to show -- you were trained to give your
25 father insulin?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Trained by the nurses and the doctors.

3 A Yes.

4 Q And your father -- and you helped your father do it
5 at the beginning?

6 A Yes. And then he took over doing it himself. And to
7 this day, he does it himself now.

8 Q And one question I didn't ask you previously, and I
9 apologize that I didn't. You talked to me a couple
10 times by phone about this deposition?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Have you talked to anybody else about this deposition
13 today?

14 A I talked to my counselor about it.

15 Q Anyone else other than me and your counselor?

16 A My best friend, I talked about it, yes.

17 Q Have you talked to your father about it?

18 A Have I?

19 Q Yes.

20 A He talked to me about it coming up in the car, yes.

21 Q So you gave him a ride up today?

22 A Yes. He asked me for a ride. I gave him a ride.

23 Q And what did the two of you talk about in the car?

24 A Not much. Just --

25 Q Well, you -- you said that you talked about the

1 deposition with your father, you talked about it in
2 the car today. And I'm asking you what you talked
3 about in the car today with your father?

4 A I don't even -- now you're putting me on the spot.

5 I don't -- my short-term memory is gone. I
6 don't remember everything that I talked about.

7 That's --

8 Q Do you remember right now anything that you had
9 talked about with your father on the way to today's
10 deposition?

11 A I told him I didn't want to do it. I didn't want to
12 be involved. And he's tried to keep me out of it and
13 tried to keep me not involved.

14 Q Did you talk about what you were going to say?

15 A No. I did not.

16 Q Did he talk to you about what you might be asked?

17 A No, he did not.

18 MR. DAVIS: Nothing further.

19 MR. CULLEY: No.

20 MR. DAVIS: I'm ready to adjourn and release the
21 witness.

22 (The deposition was concluded at
23 1:58 P.M.)

24 *****


25

CERTIFICATE

I, Heather M. Williams, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maine, hereby certify that on the 14th day of February, 2019, personally appeared before me the within-named deponent, JOHN CORSON, who was sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in the aforementioned cause of action, and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the evidence as taken by me by means of computer-aided machine shorthand.

I further certify that I am a disinterested person in the event or outcome of the aforementioned cause of action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand this 4th day of March, 2019.


Heather M. Williams
Notary Public

My commission expires:

June 1, 2021



1



2

PENGAD 800-631-6988
DEPOSITION
EXHIBIT
1



PENGAD 800-631-6989
DEPOSITION
EXHIBIT

PENGAD 800-631-6989
DEPOSITION
EXHIBIT
3



2



1



3