

**SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBAL COURT
IN AND FOR THE SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE**

**Estate of Matayia Garrow
Deceased.**

Case No.: 21-PROB-00001

DISTRIBUTION ORDER

Procedural History

On February 5, 2021, a petition for probate was filed by Trish Keese, Petitioner, for the Estate of Matayia Garrow, her daughter.

The Court held a first appearance on February 17, 2021. Trish Keese, Petitioner, appeared and was self-represented. A second appearance was held on February 26, 2021. Trish Keese, Petitioner appeared and was self-represented. The Court sent notice of the pending proceedings to Joshua David, the decedent's father. He did not attend any of the Court hearings.

Trish Keese, Petitioner, completed the required legal notice and submitted the inventory on May 7, 2021. The inventory was submitted to the Court on May 7, 2021. The Court issued the Letters of Administration on May 12, 2021.

Applicable Law

The present action is governed by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Probate Law (SRMT Probate Law).¹

Jurisdiction

Pursuant to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Probate Law, the Court "shall have personal jurisdiction to probate an estate when, at the time of death, (1) the deceased was either a Tribal Member or a person eligible for enrollment as a Tribal Member and the deceased resided or owned real or personal property located within the reservation."² Furthermore, "[t]he Tribal Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to probate real property located within the reservation."³

In the instant matter, the decedent, Matayia Garrow, a tribal member, resided within the Reservation. Thus, the Court possesses jurisdiction based on the aforementioned reasoning.

Discussion

¹ SRMT Probate Law (enacted August 16, 2017).

² SRMT Probate Law § 1.3 (a).

³ SRMT Probate Law § 1.3. (b) (1).

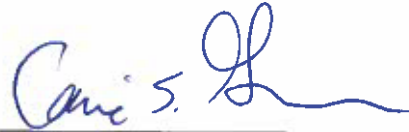
The decedent, Matayia Garrow, was not married and did not have any children. "If there are no surviving spouse or descendants, the surviving Tribal Member parent(s) of the deceased shall receive equal shares of the real property and any parent(s) shall share in personal property of the estate."⁴ Joshua David indicated to the Court he did not want to appear in Court and did not want to receive anything from the decedent's Estate. Thus, Trish Keese, Administrator, and the decedent's mother is the sole heir.

The only items contained in the Estate's inventory are [REDACTED] in a Seacomm bank account. As the sole heir, Trish Keese, is the beneficiary of all of the items contained in the Estate, including the contents of the Seacomm bank account.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing, it is **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that Matayia Garrow, decedent's, property, including the Seacomm bank account, and is transferred to Trish Keese this case is hereby **CLOSED**.

Signed this 18th day of May, 2021.



Carrie E. Garrow, Chief Judge
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court

No later than ten (10) days after a judgment is final, a party may ask the Judge for a rehearing, reconsideration, correction vacation, or modification of the judgment. The parties have thirty (30) days from the entry of this Order to file an appeal with the Saint Regis Mohawk Court of Appeals. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, please consult the Administrative Orders found on the Court's webpage for information on how to submit a motion for reconsideration or appeal at this time.

⁴ SRMT Probate Law § 3.2. (b) (5).