

TOP NEWS

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*'I just want her to live.
She doesn't have to die'*

— Marlene Legare

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that (her mother) will get better.
She's not waking up to the reality'*

— Family member

Bizarre abduction bid alleged

Woman accused of trying to force cancer-stricken mom to leave country for treatment

By Mike McIntyre

A 56-year-old financial planner from British Columbia is sitting in a Winnipeg jail cell after being charged with a plot to kidnap her dying 76-year-old mother and take her to an experimental medical facility in Texas.

Marlene Legare allegedly disguised herself with a stolen wig and glasses, conducted surveillance on her mother's home near Stonewall and then tried last Wednesday to pull the terminally ill licence plates that had been concealed.

The plan was foiled when Legare's stepfather returned home quicker than expected from voting in the municipal election, allegedly finding his cancer-stricken wife resisting attempts to remove her, RCMP Sgt. Steve Saunders said Monday. The woman was shaken up but not injured.

Legare fled the scene empty-handed and headed to the Winnipeg Interna-

tional Airport, where she was arrested while sitting on a plane that was about to take her home to Maple Ridge, B.C.

"I just want her to live," Legare told the Free Press on Monday from an interview room at the Winnipeg Remand Centre. She says she's frustrated with the lack of medical care her mother is receiving in Canada.

"She doesn't have to die. We can get her down to the clinic and give her a chance to live. But they can't do a thing for her here."

Legare admits other relatives strongly disagree with her opinion about radical medical treatment for the family's sick matriarch.

A family member on the other side of the dispute told the Free Press on Monday Legare is having difficulty coping with the reality of her mother's health.

"She is in a fairly advanced stage of cancer. But I guess (Legare) is under the impression that she'll get better. She's not waking up to the reality," said the man, who didn't want his name pub-

lished.

"This really has become a quality-of-life issue."

Police accuse Legare of watching her mother's home and waiting until she was alone to gain entry by pounding on the door and windows and then forcing herself inside when the door was finally opened.

Legare has been charged with several offences including attempted kidnapping, break-and-enter with intent and wearing a disguise while committing an indictable act. Legare is being detained in custody and will appear in court Thursday for a bail hearing.

Her mother has battled ovarian cancer for nearly five years and recently took a turn for the worse, according to police and family members.

Legare said she recently convinced her mother to take another shot at going back to the Burzynsky Clinic in Houston, Tex.

The elderly woman had previously gone down with Legare in early 2005

with great success, despite a price tag of nearly \$40,000, she claims.

But Legare claims several of her Manitoba-based siblings "poisoned" their mother into thinking it wasn't worth going back for another round of costly experimental treatment and that she should spend her final days in peace.

"They're treating it like she's already dead," she said.

This isn't the first time Legare has been accused of taking a criminal role in her parent's lives. She was charged in March, 2006 with assaulting her 86-year-old father — a claim Legare strongly denies and insists was made up by several spiteful siblings.

Legare admits she's also been locked in an ugly ongoing battle with family members over medical care for her father, who suffered a serious head injury after slipping outside a church in December 2004. Legare claims some of her siblings have tried to have him committed, which she has resisted.

There have also been struggles over

who has power of attorney, and a dispute has resulted in theft charges laid by Legare against one brother. Many allegations of wrongdoing on both sides. Legare said she's also falsely accused by some family members of having drug and alcohol issues and being mentally ill.

Legare's mother seemed to nudge views clear this past summer when told Crown attorney Colleen McClellan couldn't handle the stress of Legare visit her in person any more.

Legare had been allowed to visit Manitoba to see her mother in an existing bail order, but the court deleted upon the mother's request only telephone or written communication was allowed.

The mother apparently had of heart as her health grew worse month when she asked Legare to visit Winnipeg, according to RCMP

Mike McIntyre/freepress

PET Scan now available 6 months later, & Avastin approved December 2006

in Manitoba, treatment my mother was receiving in Texas at international