## Probate And Estate Administration: Lessons Learned From Hector "Macho" Camacho

Hector "Macho" Camacho died in November of 2012 after being taken off of life support following a shooting in his native Puerto Rico. Camacho was best known as being a four time world champion boxer and for his notorious over the top lifestyle and run ins with the law. Camacho continued to grab headlines even after his death as there were reports of a fight between several women including his alleged girlfriend, another woman who says she was his longtime girlfriend, and his sisters ensued at his wake in Puerto Rico. There are several probate and estate administration lessons that can be learned from "Macho" Camacho and his wake.

The main lesson is that the probate and estate administration process begins immediately after someone dies. The funeral, memorial, wake, or any other formal final goodbyes can be considered part of the process and it is very important that they be controlled carefully to prevent further complication. The fight at "Macho" Camacho's wake was reported to have started after ,Cynthia Castillo, the woman who claimed to be Camacho's girlfriend at the time of his death announced in front of his family and those gathered that "I am the actual girlfriend of Macho, and those who don't like it better not bring it," Castillo further upset Camacho's family by kissing Camacho on the mouth and then making a plate of food in an area reserved for family before she was reported to be tackled by Camacho's sisters, Esther and Estrella and Gloria Fernandez, who was acknowledged as Camacho's girlfriend for the past 25 years. It is up to those that are making final arrangements to prevent episodes like this from occurring by either providing adequate security or limiting who had access to the event.

Although no one may have anticipated a fight occurring, it is up to those who are responsible to limit any problems that may happen by making proper preparations. Those in charge of making funeral plans are usually the same people that end up in the role as executor or personal representative in the probate process. Funeral expenses in most cases are one of the most common final expenses other than medical expenses that must be paid before any remaining assets can be distributed to heirs. Any unnecessary additional expenses or claims against the estate such as a potential lawsuit as result of brawl or additional funeral bills can prevent assets from passing to the rightful heirs. The probate process begins immediately after death and proper planning can make everything go smoothly.

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