

McKnight's widow asks court for share in estate

The widow of former State Sen. Henry McKnight has gone to court to challenge an amendment to his will that disinherits her and her two children by a previous marriage.

McKnight made the amendment in November, a month before his death, while he was undergoing surgery for a brain tumor. According to the amendment, he was separated from his wife, Grace Carter McKnight, and they had discussed the possibility of divorce.

The amendment says that the will should be "read, construed and administered in all respects as though my wife and all of her issue, present or future, had predeceased me."

The will was filed for probate in Carver County Court, but Mrs. McKnight had asked to move it to Hennepin County, where McKnight died.

Even if the amendment is upheld, Mrs. McKnight would be entitled to one-third of the estate, whose value estimated at \$3.5 million. That is the widow's statutory share under state law, unless she

waives it. However, her children are not automatically entitled to share in the estate.

Under the earlier will, which was signed in June 1970 and first amended in January 1972, Mrs. McKnight received more than half the estate, with

the remainder divided evenly among her son and daughter and McKnight's three children by an earlier marriage.

Among the assets of the estate are a \$1.2-million investment in Cedar-Riverside Associates Inc., a large cattle farm in Carver County and a major interest in Jonathan Development Corp., developers of a new town in Chaska.

Mrs. McKnight's petition set aside alleges that McKnight was "not of sound mind" when he signed it and was "under undue influence" of unnamed persons.