

Widow entitled to estate after Dignitas trip

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By Phoebe Southworth

A WOMAN who accompanied her husband to Dignitas can claim his £1.8 million estate, a High Court judge has ruled in a test case.

Sarah Ninian, 63, travelled with her husband Alex, 84, to the clinic in Switzerland in November 2017 after he was diagnosed with a progressive incurable disease and was unable to get there by himself. Mrs Ninian, who was named as

the sole beneficiary in her husband's will, could have been blocked from access to his estate, worth an estimated £1.8million, because of laws barring inheritance when a beneficiary has been involved in a person's "unlawful killing".

She had alerted the police to the circumstances of her husband's death, sparking intense legal debate about whether she was entitled to the money. But at a High Court hearing yesterday

she successfully applied for the "forfeiture rule" to be waived or modified.

Chief Master Matthew Marsh was told that Mrs Ninian had tried to dissuade her husband from taking his own life, had contacted the police and had not been prosecuted.

Mr Ninian had lawyers prepare a statement which said his wife had been opposed to his decision, had not pressured him and only accompanied him because he could not travel unaided.