# Michael Parker pursues £600,000 claims against son over Buckinghamshire mansion dispute



Multimillionaire businessman Michael Parker, 62, has initiated a second legal battle against his son, Thomas Parker-Bowyer, 32, concerning a dispute over a £2.2 million mansion in Bourne End, Buckinghamshire. The renewed litigation follows a bitter High Court confrontation in which Michael Parker previously won the right to reclaim ownership of the sprawling property, known as The House.

The latest case centres around claims by Michael Parker that several high-value items from the mansion have gone missing or been disposed of by his son. These include gym equipment valued at £40,000, a mini grand piano worth £12,000, and a Union flag armchair, among other furnishings. Mr Parker alleges that his son either discarded these items in skips or sold them without permission. The total value of the disputed chattels stands at around £300,000.

Alongside the chattels claim, Michael Parker is pursuing an additional £300,000 related to occupation rent, non-payment of the mortgage on the property, and damage to a storage unit that his company rents. The combined claims amount to approximately £600,000 in this ongoing dispute.

Thomas Parker-Bowyer has responded by describing the claims as “laughable” and said he lacks the financial means to pay his father. Speaking to the courtroom, he stated, “It’s a father and son dispute, it’s not about money. He wants to make me bankrupt. Congratulations – it will happen in a couple of months.” He further added that he owes around £67,000 to his legal team from the initial dispute and expressed concerns over tax liabilities he faces related to the sale of the house, which he no longer owns.

The mansion, known as The House, is a luxurious seven-bedroom ranch-style residence set on a secluded estate with two acres of grounds. It boasts eight bathrooms, a bespoke kitchen fitted with American black walnut and Orissa Blue granite, a home cinema, swimming pool with adjustable floor height, gym, bar, and separate staff quarters. Michael Parker, previously a property developer and surgical supply business owner, co-founded BC Softwear, a luxury towel manufacturer supplying prestigious hotels such as The Dorchester.

The original dispute arose after Michael Parker transferred ownership of the mansion to his son in 2019, as part of a trust agreement intended to reduce inheritance tax liability, while retaining a 'lifetime interest' in the property himself. However, the father and son clashed over the nature of this arrangement, with Thomas claiming full ownership based on the belief that the house was effectively a gift to him, especially as he had invested significant money into paying off his father's mortgage.

Deputy Master John Linwood, the judge in the initial case, ruled in favour of Michael Parker, stating that the transfer was never meant to be absolute and that Thomas held the house on trust for his father. The judge described Michael Parker as “a man in control of everything” who was generous with his sons but cautious about fully relinquishing his central asset. He further declared that “the property was the centre of his wealth” and confirmed that the house remained under trust arrangements.

After the ruling, the court directed father and son to reach an out-of-court agreement concerning the missing furnishings, but no resolution was achieved, prompting Mr Parker to pursue the new claims.

The second case was heard by Deputy Master Richard Dew, who expressed concern over the ongoing litigation given Thomas Parker-Bowyer’s precarious financial situation. He stated, “It’s a mystery to me that your client is continuing to pursue these claims when he knows what the defendant’s financial position is. Why is your client continuing to pursue his son for money he knows he doesn’t have?” The judge also noted the unusually high valuation of the chattels claimed by Mr Parker could be overestimated.

Mr Parker’s legal representative, Gavin McLeod, remarked on the contentious nature of the claims and highlighted the need for disclosure, including searching Thomas Parker-Bowyer’s Facebook Marketplace account to ascertain what items remain.

Representing himself, Thomas Parker-Bowyer challenged the valuations, pointing out that some items are decades old and had professional valuations of only £10,000. He criticised the claim put forward for a 20-year-old treadmill valued at £40,000 as an exaggeration.

The judge granted both parties permission to amend their claims and defences, acknowledging that the case has potential to expand considerably. The dispute will proceed to trial unless the two sides reach a settlement in the meantime.

Michael Parker’s older son, Eddie Parker, 34, reportedly has had no involvement in the legal disputes.

This ongoing legal conflict highlights a deeply personal and financial rift between father and son centred on family assets, inheritance arrangements, and the handling of high-value items within a prominent estate in Buckinghamshire.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/01/towel-tycoon-sues-son-over-22m-mansion-both-claim-to-own/> - This piece discusses the transfer of the mansion from Michael Parker to his son in 2019, highlighting the differing claims regarding ownership and the conditions attached to the transfer.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/01/towel-tycoon-sues-son-over-22m-mansion-both-claim-to-own/> - This article provides insights into the background of Michael Parker's business ventures, including his luxury towel company supplying prestigious hotels like The Dorchester.
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/01/towel-tycoon-sues-son-over-22m-mansion-both-claim-to-own/> - This source mentions the previous legal battles involving Michael Parker, including his divorce proceedings and the associated legal costs.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/01/towel-tycoon-sues-son-over-22m-mansion-both-claim-to-own/> - This article highlights the luxurious features of the mansion, such as the bespoke kitchen, home cinema, and adjustable floor swimming pool.
6. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/01/towel-tycoon-sues-son-over-22m-mansion-both-claim-to-own/> - This piece discusses the strained relationship between Michael Parker and his son, Thomas Parker-Bowyer, and the ongoing legal disputes over the mansion.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14658549/towel-tycoon-son-bankruptcy-court-war-mansion.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data