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Judge Throws Out Lawsuit Over Scientology Dispute

By RUSSELL CHANDLER, *Times Religion Writer*

A Riverside Superior Court judge Monday threw out a suit by L. Ron Hubbard's estranged son that claimed that his father, the controversial founder of the Church of Scientology, is either dead or incompetent.

Judge David Hennigan said he had been "convinced" by a declaration Hubbard had filed three weeks ago that the reclusive science-fiction writer was alive.

The declaration was signed and fingerprinted by Hubbard and apparently authenticated by handwriting and fingerprint experts. Hubbard, 71, had written in the document that he was "not a missing person. I am in seclusion of my own choosing. My privacy is impor-

tant to me and I do not wish it or my affairs invaded."

Ron DeWolf, who has been estranged from his father for more than 20 years, filed a probate petition in the Riverside court Nov. 10. The petition alleged that Hubbard was either dead or mentally incompetent and that self-dealing church representatives were systematically looting money, gems and securities from his father's estate.

DeWolf asked the court to name him trustee of the estate, estimated to be worth at least \$100 million.

"I think the media has heard the cry of 'DeWolf long enough,'" Heber Jentsch, president of the Church of Scientology International, said in a telephone interview.