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MailOnline

Russell Armstrong's mother may not attend tragic son's funeral as bitter row with his estranged wife Taylor boils over

EXCLUSIVE

By [Anita Bennett](#)

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The mother of Russell Armstrong may not attend her son's funeral after tensions between her and his estranged wife Taylor reached boiling point.

The tragic businessman, who was cremated this week, will have a memorial service in Los Angeles in the coming days, arranged by his wife Taylor of the Real Housewives of Beverly Hills, who had recently filed for divorce.

But his mother John Ann Hotchkiss, who is angered after being left out of planning the event, is unlikely to go, MailOnline has learnt exclusively.



Bitter row: Things have gotten so bad between Taylor Armstrong and her late husband Russell's family that his mother may skip his funeral next week

Instead she will remember her son at a separate memorial service, which is due to be held next week as well, in either Evergreen or Benton, Texas, just outside of Houston.

Russell's powerhouse attorney Ronald Richards told MailOnline today: 'His mother is [still] deciding [about going to the Los Angeles funeral] but his nephew is attending.'

The adult nephew, whose name is Austin, will attend the funeral and take Russell's cremated remains back to Texas.

Several websites have previously reported that Russell's ashes will be divided between Taylor and Russell's parents.



Planning the funeral: Taylor Armstrong was seen covering her head, as she visited Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles on Thursday

Taylor, 40, was seen visiting Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles on Thursday and is planning to hold a memorial service in Southern California next week.



Speaking out: Russell's attorney Ronald Richards

But when asked if Russell's family had been included in the planning, Richards responded via e-mail: 'NOT AT ALL.'

He went on to say: 'They can't agree to something they know nothing about. They are in agreement that his remains will go back to Texas.'

Richards explained that the second memorial will take place at an undisclosed location and that Russell has already been cremated.

The 47-year-old businessman was found dead on Monday after hanging himself at a home he was staying at on Mulholland Drive.

According to Radaronline, his funeral will take place this Wednesday at 3.00pm.

The entertainment website reports some of Taylor's Real Housewives co-stars will join her at the Church of the Hills at Forest Lawn's Hollywood Hills location to celebrate Russell's life.



Happier times: Russell and Taylor put on a united front last season on this episode of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*

Russell was said to be in a state of panic before his death, over how he would be portrayed in the upcoming season of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*.

Speaking out for the first time since his death, his 69-year-old mother told *Headline News*: 'Before the new season even started, before he took his life, he said, "Mom, they're just going to crucify me this season".'

'He said, "I don't know what to do. I'll never survive it".'

In another interview, Hotchkiss told *CNN HLN's Jane Velez-Mitchell* she might take legal action if producers show images of her son in the new season of the Bravo series, which is set to start on September 5.

She said that the TV network: 'Better not air one frame of my son... or else!'

Russell and Taylor were married for six years and have a five-year-old daughter named Kennedy.

She had filed for divorce from him - but it still was not finalised at the time of his death.

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In last season's episodes, everyone on the show had terrible, insulting comments to make about Russell. I think that, along with his financial issues caused him to be so despondent. After a season like that with everyone putting him down in front of all his friends & business associates, I can't even imagine the stress he was under considering what insults would be hurled at him in the upcoming season! If BRAVO has any class at all, they won't do the obvious and go for ratings with all this publicity. They should NOT air ANY clips with Russell in them! I hate to say it but I really do have a feeling they're relishing all this free publicity for their show. May Russell's 3 children find comfort in knowing how much their dad loved them. I'd love to see all family members including Taylor forgive & forget, get through the memorial and just go home and grieve in peace. Enough with the hate already.

- Jenny, Heart of America, 21/8/2011 18:40

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Poor woman! She has had to split her son's ashes with that gold digger of a woman. She wouldn't get a fleck of my child's ashes. Taylor hated him, but now she is playing the widow. I can't believe Taylor would treat that man's mother the way she has. It's absolutely terrible. Mom can't even have her own service for her son because his ashes are split. Taylor is a horrible person (IMO)

- Sarah the nurse, Iowa USA, 21/8/2011 03:49

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The headline alone is enough to horrify. Any mother/father who loses a child should be allowed to say goodbye, this is just wrong! Bad, bad, bad!

- defne, istanbul, 21/8/2011 01:07

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I really enjoyed the 1st season of this show. While I readily admit that Taylor was my least favorite, my heart goes out to her & ALL of Russels family & friends. As I understand these 'reality' show & stars, they must sign contracts & agreements that pretty much allow ALL their 'dirty laundry' to be aired, whether by editing, etc. putting together what & how we view these shows. I don't believe for a minute that Bravo, or ANY such show, caused his suicide! To imply such a thing, or to make threats about trying to hold ANYONE responsible for the desperate actions Mr. Armstrong chose, is simply part of grief talking in the anger stage. He & Taylor both signed contracts to be filmed, have been paid, & I'm sure, after much consideration by Bravo, will be respectively aired as planned. I, for one, will be watching, but without ANY desire to see Russel degraded or humiliated!

- Lyndi, Centralia, Wa. USA, 20/8/2011 23:38

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His behaviour and suicide is nothing to do with a TV channel. He was an adult and not even in the show much. I would imagine his mother is in deep shock and understandably looking for reasons but it is nothing to do with her.

- Yve, UK, 20/8/2011 23:16

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Good for Russell's mother. I believe that Taylor should resign from the cast immediately! If she won't leave, then Bravo needs to let her go. She will not want to go, because now that the cat is out of the financial bag, she needs a lot of money & fast! However, this show will be forever tainted with Russell's suicide. He made it very clear that this show was destroying him & his marriage. It would not be appropriate for Taylor to remain a cast member for that reason alone.

- Caroline, Dallas, Texas, 20/8/2011 21:52

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