

Superior Court of California
County of Merced
Probate Department

Probate Notes

Probate Notes for future calendars are available from the time they are created until the morning of the scheduled hearing. The Probate Examiner's Notes typically will be posted 5 days prior to the hearing. If you are filing documents to cure a technical defect, documents should be filed a minimum of 2 court days prior to the hearing. Documents filed late will not be reviewed except on the date of the hearing at the Judge's discretion and could result in a continuance of your case.

Parties intending to appear in Court regarding their hearing must notify all other parties and call (209) 725-4111 to notify the Court of such intent by 4:00 pm on the day before the hearing.

Contacting the Probate Examiner:

Probate Examiner's email address is: probate.examiner@mercedcourt.org

Emails must have the case identification information and hearing date/time in the subject line. **No attachments will be opened.** The Probate Examiner can only respond to inquiries regarding the meaning of comments in the Notes. *Please do not email to request a confirmation whether documents have been received or to request the clearing of notes.* No legal or procedural advice may be given by the Examiner in response to your email.

Questions regarding fees, forms, status of orders, Zoom links or remote appearances should be directed to the Probate Unit of the Clerk's Office at (209) 725-4111 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

The following cases are not reflected in the Probate Notes and appearances are required unless previously excused by the Court:

- Guardianships and Conservatorships of the Person
- Minor's Compromise cases before the Probate Court for approval
- Petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Findings

**Questions involving Guardianships (including SIJF) and Conservatorships of the Person should be directed to the Court Investigators Office at (209) 725-4190.*

***Please note no legal or procedural advice can be provided by the Court Investigator's Office. ***

Superior Court of California, County of Merced
PROBATE/CONSERVATORSHIP CALENDAR
HONORABLE: Donald Proietti

DATE: Wednesday, June 11, 2025
TIME: 8:15 AM
Courtroom 10

PROBATE CALENDAR

Updated 6/6/25 12 pm

The following tentative rulings shall become the ruling of the court unless a party gives notice of intention to appear as follows:

1. You must call (209) 725-4240 to notify the court of your intent to appear.
2. You must give notice to all other parties before 4:00 p.m. of your intent to object.

Per California Rules of Court, rule 3.1308(a)(1), failure to do both items 1 and 2 will result in no oral argument. **Parties who contest the tentative ruling or wish to appear remotely at a hearing must contact the clerk of the Court at (209) 725-4111 to provide their contact information for the remote hearing.**

CASE NAME: Estate of MaryJane Vargas

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from November 4, 2024 re: Status of Closing of the Estate

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES IN THE PAPERS ARE NOTED:

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing on the *First and Final Report and Account of Personal Representative and Petition for Its Settlement, For Allowance of Compensation to Personal Representative, Fees to the Attorney and For Final Distribution* currently set for August 11, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 is confirmed.

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CASE#: 23PR-00433

CASE NAME: Estate of Janice Hatcher

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from April 10, 2025 re: *First and Final Account Current and Report of Executor and Petition for Settlement Therof* (sic)

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES IN THE PAPERS WERE PREVIOUSLY NOTED:

1. An Inventory and Appraisal has not been filed. Prob Code §8800(b) **Corrected -filed 3/21/25*
2. What is the status of the following specific bequests per the decedent's will not included in any filed Inventory and Appraisal and not addressed in the Petition for First and Final Account:
 - Robert Wayne Bachtel:
 - 2876 High Street, Hornitos, CA **The real property located at 2876 High St., Hornitos, CA has not been identified as an estate asset and appraised in any filed Inventory and Appraisal.*
 - 2 Toyota Pick-ups or current vehicles **Not addressed in the 1st Amended Petition filed 5/8/25*
 - Georgia Ann McGillick: **Remains unaddressed in the 1st Amended Petition*
 - Rug collection
 - White pots with red trim
 - Blue Willow dishes from decedent's grandmother Maude Kenton
 - Kenneth Bachtel: **Remains unaddressed in the 1st Amended Petition*
 - Personal items to be requested from Robert Bachtel
3. Petition does not reflect a Probate Code compliant accounting or include Waivers of Accounting signed by each beneficiary in lieu of an accounting. Probate Code §§1061 et seq., 10951, 10954, CRC 7.550 **Corrected – Filed 5/8/25*
4. Petition does not reflect the inclusion, status and disposition of the real property located at 25th Street, Merced, CA as identified in the Inventory and Appraisal filed on 3/21/25. **Corrected*
5. Petition does not reflect a detailed proposed distribution of the beneficiaries. CRC 7.651 **See item #2*
6. Were any actions taken under IAEA and is so, what actions were taken. Prob Code 10585, 10586 **Partially addressed in the 1st Amended Petition filed on 5/8/25*
7. A proposed Order has not been lodged with the Court. MSC Rule 100 E. **Proposed Order reflects the estate has no cash on hand in paragraph #15 and is in contradiction to paragraph #22 which includes cash on hand to be distributed.*

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing is continued to August 4, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of the deficiencies.

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CASE#: 24PR-00434 (*updated)

CASE NAME: Estate of Melinda Thornton

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from May 8, 2025 re: Status of Filing an Inventory and Appraisal

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES IN THE PAPERS WERE PREVIOUSLY NOTED:

1. An Inventory and Appraisal has not been filed. Prob Code §8800(b) *Corrected

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. An Inventory and Appraisal was filed on May 28, 2025. A Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate is hereby set for January 21, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

CASE#: 25PR-00192 (*updated)

CASE NAME: Estate of Karnail Singh Rai

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition for Letters of Administration with Full IAEA Authority

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES IN THE PAPERS ARE NOTED:

1. Bond has not been waived by all beneficiaries. Prob Code §8481
2. Does the Petitioner have legal custody of the minor heir and reside at the same location? Prob Code §1210, CRC 7.51 (c)-(d)

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

(End of Tentative Rulings)