

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](mailto: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: Mark Bacciarini

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DATE: Friday, April 18, 2025  
TIME: 8:15 AM and 8:30 AM  
Courtroom 10  
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PROBATE CALENDAR

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.**

**8:15 AM CALENDAR**

**CASE#:** 19PR-00325

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Katherine Lara Hew

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from March 14, 2025 re:

1. Status Hearing on Closing of the Estate
2. Order to Show Cause re: Sanctions for Failing to Appear

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

1. Distributive Receipt and an Ex Parte Petition For Final Discharge And Order (DE-295) have not been submitted. Prob Code §12250 \*Corrected

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

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**CASE#:** 24PR-00139

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Maria Teresa Valencia

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from February 7, 2025 re: Spousal Property Petition

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

1. Objection filed on July 26, 2024 by Silvestre Valencia.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

**CASE#:** 24PR-00312

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Richard Gilbert Douglas

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from February 21, 2025 re: Petition For Letters of Administration with Full IAEA Authority

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

1. A written Objection or Petition for Letters Testamentary by Rosetta Douglas Carter remains unfiled.
2. An Amended Petition has not been filed.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required. Parties to advise the Court on the current case status.

**8:30 AM CALENDAR**

**CASE#:** 22PR-00219

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Corinne Laurie Brierley

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from March 28, 2025 re: Status Hearing

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

None.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

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**CASE#:** 22PR-00252

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Preston Sullivan

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from February 7, 2025 re: Status Review

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

1. A Petition for Final Account or Status Report has not been filed.  
Prob Code §12200-12201

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required. Counsel to advise the Court on the current case status.

**CASE#:** 23PR-00228

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Silvia Esparza Vera

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from April 7, 2025 re: Confirmation of Appointment of Public Administrator

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

1. A Petition for Final Account or Status Report has not been filed.  
Prob Code §12200-12201

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

**CASE#:** 24PR-00352

**CASE NAME:** Conservatorship of Steven Schuettinger

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from February 14, 2025 re: Status Review Hearing

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

1. Bond has not been posted and Letters issued. Prob Code §2320(c), CRC 7.207  
*\*Corrected*
2. A Petition to Sell meeting the requirement of Probate Code §2540(b) has not been filed as requested by the Public Defender and directed by the Court on December 13, 2024.
3. The filed Inventory and Appraisals do not include the conservatee's bank account at Bank of America and the conservatee's Audi car. *\*conservatee's vehicle has not been included in any filed I&A.*

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

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**CASE#:** 23PR-00319

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Jose M. Arroyo

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from March 7, 2025 re:

1. Status of Filing an Inventory and Appraisal
2. Correction/Amended Orders and Letters for Administration

**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)

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required. Counsel to advise the Court on the status of filing an Inventory and Appraisal.

**CASE#:** 20PR-00158

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Robert Alan Hunter

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

1. Continued from February 21, 2025 re: Review of Case Status
2. Petition for the Court to Order Double Damages, Costs and Attorney Fees

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

None.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

(End of Tentative Rulings)