

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: Mark Bacciarini

DATE: Friday, April 3, 2026
TIME: 8:15 AM and 8:30 AM
Courtroom 10

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#: 24PR-00195

CASE NAME: Guardianship of Mason Ly

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition for Reimbursement of Expenses, Costs and Monthly Payments to Ward's Mother

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

1. An Inventory and Appraisal has not been filed and must be filed prior to any Petition for fees to be paid from the estate. Prob Code §§2610, 2640
2. Court's discretion concerning the Guardian's request for reimbursement for payments made to the counsel for services that have not been approved by the Court. Prob Code §2642, CRC 7.751, 7.755(a)
3. Is the monthly CalSrs benefit paid directly to the Guardian or directly deposited into the estate blocked account?
4. As a monthly maintenance are now requested, Court's discretion concerning any bond that may now be required as accountings will need to be filed with the Court. Prob Code §§2320, 2420(c), 2620
5. The proposed Order lodged on 2/2/26 contains a typographical error on page 1, line 24 concerning the amount sought to be reimbursed by the Guardian.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

(continued on next page)

CASE#: 24PR-00364

CASE NAME: Estate of Darlene Wright

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from March 5, 2026 re:

1. First and Final Waiver of Account and Report of Administrator, Petition for Final Distribution and Allowance of Statutory Compensation of Attorney's Fees
2. Continued from June 16, 2025 re: Status Hearing re: Closing of the Estate

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

1. What is the status of the real property located on Herman Street, Atwater as reflected in the I&A filed on 2/25/25? [*Addressed at the 3/5/26 hearing](#)
2. Did deceased heir David Wright have a will? Who is the personal representative of his estate? Prob Code §§11801 et seq.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing is hereby continued to May 11, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 to allow counsel additional time to correct the previously noted deficiencies.

CASE#: 26PR-00021

CASE NAME: Estate of Jim Alvarez Romo

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from March 20, 2026 re: Petition for Letters of Administration with Full IAEA Authority

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

1. The Court is inclined to order a Guardian Ad Litem to be appointed for estate heir D. Romo.
2. Proof of Service filed on February 4, 2026 does not reflect the date and place in which notice was effectuated on all interested parties. Prob Code §8110 [*Corrected](#)
3. No Proof of Publication with the corresponding signed affidavit. Prob Code §8121, §8124 [*Corrected](#)

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required. Parties to appear and advise the Court on the status of securing counsel.

(continued on next page)

CASE#: 26PR-00042

CASE NAME: Estate of Michael Steven Branham

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition to Determine Succession to Primary Residence

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

1. The proposed *Order Determining Succession to Primary Residence* lodged on 1/29/26 is blank and requires appropriate interlineation of applicable items #1-11.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required. The Petition to Determine Succession to Primary Residence is approved. The Petitioner to resubmit a completed proposed *Order Determining Succession to Primary Residence* for the Court's signature.

CASE#: 26PR-00089

CASE NAME: Estate of Nonie Marlene Fiskum

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition for Letters of Administration with Limited IAEA Authority

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

1. No Notice to all heirs, beneficiaries & executors. Prob Code §§8100, 8110
2. No Proof of Publication with the corresponding signed affidavit.
Prob Code §§8121, 8124
3. Proposed Letters and Order for Probate has not been lodged.
Prob Code §§8006, 8400, MSC 100 E.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing is continued to May 11, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of deficiencies.

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8:30 AM CALENDAR

CASE#: 22PR-00291

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Wayne Larkin

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

1. Amended First Account and Report of Conservator, Petition for Allowance of Fees to Conservator of the Person and Estate and to the Attorney
2. Second Account and Report of Conservator, Petition for Allowance of Fees to Conservator of the Person and Estate and to the Attorney
3. Third Account and Report of Conservator, Petition for Allowance of Fees to Conservator of the Person and Estate and to the Attorney

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

As to the Amended First Accounting:

1. The Amended First Accounting does not account for the Conservatee's Wells Fargo Checking Account reflected the previous First Accounting approved by the Court on 3/25/24.
2. Notice is insufficient at only 11 days' notice. Prob Code §1460(a)

As to the Second Accounting:

1. The Second Accounting reflects the inclusion of an additional asset at Premier One Credit Union that has not been accounted for in any previously filed Inventory and Appraisal.
2. Notice is insufficient at only 11 days' notice. Prob Code §1460(a)

As to the Third Accounting:

1. The Third Accounting reflects the inclusion of the asset identified as the Conservatee's Wells Fargo Checking Account that was originally identified in the previous First Accounting approved by the Court on 3/25/24. This asset has not been accounted for in any previously filed Inventory and Appraisal.
2. Notice is insufficient at only 11 days' notice. Prob Code §1460(a)

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing is continued to May 8, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of deficiencies.

(End of Tentative Rulings)