

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, August 14, 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.**

CASE#: 21PR-00336

CASE NAME: Estate of Ydalia Perez Rosales

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from June 5, 2026 re: Status Review Hearing

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
2. Court's discretion concerning possible measures including possible removal to be imposed for failing to file a Status Report or Petition for Final Account and Order for Distribution within the required statutory time. Prob Code §§ 11050, et seq., 12205

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

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CASE#: 26PR-00238

CASE NAME: Estate of Sandra Diane Mathieu

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:

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Petition to Determine Succession to Primary Residence is approved.

CASE#: 26PR-00243

CASE NAME: Estate of Socorro J. Martinez

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:

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Petition to Determine Succession to Primary Residence is approved.

CASE#: 26PR-00271

CASE NAME: Estate of Jana Sue Smiley

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary with Full IAEA Authority

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary with Full IAEA Authority is granted. The decedent's will is admitted into Probate. Probate Referee Michael Wright is appointed. A Status Hearing ensuring the Filing of an Inventory and Appraisal is hereby set for January 20, 2027 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

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CASE#: 26PR-00272

CASE NAME: Estate of Sanford Genn Jun Hee

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary with Full IAEA Authority

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

1. Please clarify whether the persons identified in the Petition for Letters Testamentary as Decedent's heirs and devisees are the same persons identified as beneficiaries under Decedent's Trust. Prob Code §§8003(a)(3), 8110

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

8:30 AM CALENDAR

CASE#: 24PR-00093

CASE NAME: Estate of Angelo Espinola Picanco

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from May 22, 2026 re: Status ensuring the Closing of the Estate

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 provide the Court with a current case status.

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CASE#: 24PR-00230

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Barbara Barreiro

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from July 10, 2026 re:

1. First Account and Report of Conservator, Petition for Allowance of Fees to Conservator of the Person and Estate, and to the Attorney
3. Second and Final 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 WERE PREVIOUSLY NOTED:

As to the First Accounting:

1. The conservatee's interest in real property located in San Lorenzo, CA has not been included in any filed Inventory and Appraisal.
2. What is the source of the cash assets as identified in the Summary of Account and corresponding Schedule "Cash assets on hand at Beginning of Account Period."
3. Did the estate receive the conservatee's CALPERS retirement benefits for September 2025 and October 2025?

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing is continued to October 2 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of deficiencies. Any corrective pleadings to be filed and served by the close of business on September 18, 2026.

CASE#: 25PR-00158

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of LaNell Howard

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

First Account and Report of Conservator and Petition for Its Approval; Petition for Attorney Fees and Costs from Conservatorship Estate

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

1. The Accounting does not balance. The amount reflected in Schedule A—Receipts does not match the amount shown for Schedule A in the Summary of Schedules.
2. Pursuant to the Court's June 26, 2026 order, and consistent with Probate Code section 1471, counsel was directed to serve the Public Defender, appointed to represent the conservatee, with a copy of the Petition.
3. Concern that the requested fees may be excessive in light of the estate's limited liquid assets and the nature and reasonableness of the services billed, including multiple entries for attempted electronic filings. (Prob. Code, § 2640.)

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing is continued to September 18, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of the deficiencies.

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CASE#: PR000016

CASE NAME: Estate of Bernard Charles Gardner

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition to Authorize and Instruct the Public Administrator to Liquidate the Estate of Bernard Gardner

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

(End of Tentative Rulings)