

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

-----  
DATE: Friday, December 19, 2025  
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-00257

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Helen Tomlinson

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

Continued from April 7, 2025 re: Status of Closing of the Estate

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

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

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required. The Administrator to appear and advise the Court on the current case status.

(continued on next page)

**CASE#:** 25PR-00043

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Gardenia Dream Gause

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

Continued from July 25, 2025 re: Status Hearing ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal

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

None.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

No appearance required. An Inventory and Appraisal was filed on August 15, 2025. A Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate is hereby set for August 26, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

**CASE#:** 25PR-00260

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Kent McDaniel Taylor

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

Continued from July 25, 2025 re: Status Hearing ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal

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

None.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

No appearance required. An Inventory and Appraisal was filed on October 1, 2025. A Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate is hereby set for August 26, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

(continued on next page)

**CASE#:** 25PR-00355

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Jesus Arevalo Pimentel

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

Continued from November 19, 2025 re: Amended Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters of Administration with Full IAEA Authority

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

1. The decedent's Will has not been lodged with the Court. Prob Code §8200 *\*Corrected – Lodged 10/20/25*
2. A Declination to Serve as Executor has not been signed by the named Successor Executor Audelia Hilda Pimentel. *\*Corrected – Amended Petition filed 11/14/25*
3. The Petitioner is not a named Executor, Bond must be posted or Waivers of Bond must be signed by all named beneficiaries. Prob Code §8481 *\*Corrected – Amended Petition filed 11/14/25*
4. No Notice to Emanuel Pimentel and Dahlia Pimentel. Prob Code §§8100, 8110 *\*Corrected - POS filed on 11/19/25*
5. No Proof of Publication with the corresponding signed affidavit. Prob Code §§8121, 8124 *\*Corrected – Filed 10/7/25*
6. A new proposed Order for Probate reflecting the name of the proposed Executrix Maria Luisa Pimentel has not been lodged. *\*Newly noted for the 12/19/25 hrg*

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required. Absent any Objection, the Court's intention is to grant the Amended Petition for Letters Testamentary with full IAEA Authority with no bond required. Probate Referee Michael Wright to be appointed. The decedent's will to be admitted into Probate. A Status Hearing ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal to be set for May 21, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

**CASE#:** 25PR-00455

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Kenneth Earl Wright

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

Amended Petition for Letters of Administration with Limited IAEA Authority

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

1. Was the Amended Petition served on all interested parties? CRC 7.53(a), Prob Code §8100, §8110

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

(continued on next page)

## 8:30 AM CALENDAR

**CASE#:** 24PR-00093

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Angelo Espinola Picanco

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

Continued from July 11, 2025 re: Status ensuring the Closing of the Estate

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

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

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

No appearance required. The Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate is continued to March 6, 2026 at 8:30 am in Courtroom 10.

**CASE#:** 24PR-00500

**CASE NAME:** Conservatorship of Kenneth J. Anderson

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

Petition for Substituted Judgment to Create and Fund Revocable Trust and Execute a Pour-Over Will

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

1. No notice on the conservatee and Public Defender who represents the conservatee.  
Prob Code §2581, 1460
2. Court's discretion concerning good cause to dispense with notice as to conservatee's estranged children. Probate Code §2581(d)

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

No appearance required. The hearing is continued to January 9, 2026 at 8:30 am in Courtroom 10 for correction of deficiencies.

(continued on next page)

**CASE#:** PR000016

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Bernard Charles Gardner

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

Continued from continued from October 3, 2025 re: Further Proceedings

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

None.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

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

(End of Tentative Rulings)