

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, January 23, 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-00257

CASE NAME: Estate of Helen Tomlinson

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from December 19, 2025 re: Status of 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. The Administrator to appear and advise the Court on the current case status.

(continued on next page)

CASE#: 25PR-00124

CASE NAME: Estate of James Blaine Snow, Jr.

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from November 21, 2025 re:

1. Review of Case Status
2. Order to Show Cause Why the Case Should Not be Dismissed

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

1. The Administrator has not posted bond as required per the Court's April 24, 2025 order.
Prob Code §8480(c), CCP §995.340

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 25PR-00281

CASE NAME: Estate of Christopher Ryan Henderson

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from August 8, 2025 re: A Status Hearing ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal

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

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

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

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CASE#: 25PR-00403

CASE NAME: Estate of Douglas Melvin Hodde

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from January 24, 2025 re: Spousal Property Petition

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

1. Additional information is needed to establish the community property claim. (date asset acquired, date of marriage, manner in which asset was acquired and how asset is community property, what were the decedent's assets at the time of marriage, what was the decedent's occupation, how was the down payment made for the real property? Was it made with separate property or community property? Was the real property a gift? How were the mortgage payments made?) Prob Code 13651(a)(3)-(4)
2. Concern there may be a designated beneficiary of the Treasury Bonds sought to be transferred.
3. No notice to heirs/beneficiaries. Prob Code 13655(a)(2) [*Corrected – filed 11/7/25](#)
4. A Creditor's Claim has been filed by Gatestone & Co. International for BMO Bank, N.A. on November 6, 2025 for \$6,996.80.
5. What is the relationship of Jeffery Douglas Hodde and Nina Maria Hodde to the decedent?
6. The proposed Order that was lodged is primarily blank. MSC 100 E.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

8:30 AM CALENDAR

CASE#: 16PR-00346

CASE NAME: In the Matter of the Isabel E. Moreno Minor's Trust

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from July 11, 2025 re: Status of Third Accounting

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

1. A Third Accounting has not been filed.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required. The former Trustee and any other interested parties should appear and advise the Court on the status of the submission of the Third Accounting for the Court's approval.

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CASE#: 16PR-00347

CASE NAME: In Re: The Anthony C. Moreno Minor's Trust

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from July 11, 2025 re: Corrections to Amended Second Accounting and Status of Third Accounting

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

1. The Amended Second Account and Report of Trustee and Petition to Approve Fees to Thomas Day in Preparation of Amended Second Account is unsigned and not verified. Prob Code §1021(a)(1), CCP §§128.7, 2015.5 **Remains an issue for the 1/23/26 hrg*
2. Notice has not been provided to all beneficiaries and interested parties. Prob Code §17203 **Remains an issue for the 1/23/26 hrg*
3. A Third Accounting has not been filed.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 19PR-00023

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Ronald P. Hamlin, Jr.

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

1. Continued from October 31, 2025 re: Trial Readiness Conference
2. Petition to Terminate the Conservatorship

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

1. Parties have not filed Statement of Issues as ordered by the Court on August 1, 2025.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 19PR-00308

CASE NAME: Estate of Kenneth Wheaton

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from June 6, 2025 re: Status Review Hearing/Final Accounting

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.

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CASE#: 21PR-00146

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Perry Wheaton

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from August 22, 2025 re: Status Review/Trailing 19PR-00308 Estate of Kenneth Wheaton

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

This case is trailing case #19PR-308 Kenneth Wheaton.

CASE#: 22PR-00020

CASE NAME: Estate of Jose Torres

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from May 23, 2025 re: Status 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

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required. Counsel to update the Court as to the current case status.

CASE#: 23PR-00402

CASE NAME: Estate of Mark David O'Dell

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from August 22, 2025 re: Review of Case Status

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#: PR000016

CASE NAME: Estate of Bernard Charles Gardner

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from continued December 19, 2025 re: Further Proceedings

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. An Inventory and Appraisal was filed on January 6, 2026. The Status Hearing is continued to May 15, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

(End of Tentative Rulings)