

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, July 17, 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 May 15, 2026 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
2. Based on the updated inventory and appraisal, the current bond may no longer be sufficient. The administrator should be advised to seek an increase in bond in accordance with the applicable probate rules. The Court may require compliance through a further order and may take additional action if a required increased bond is not provided. Prob Code §§8480, 8482, CRC 7.204

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

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CASE#: P18710

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Marcus Spagnola

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Biennial Review and Accounting

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

1. A Twentieth Account and Report by the Conservators has not been filed.
Prob Code §2620(a)

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

8:30 AM CALENDAR

CASE#: 19PR-00023

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

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

First Account and Report of Conservator, Petition for Allowance of Fees to Conservator of the Estate, and to the Attorney

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

1. There is an absence of accounting documentation for the period July 6, 2023 through April 2025, preventing review of estate administration during that time.
2. The accounting reflects a single payment by R. Pena in the amount of \$1,050 received on May 23, 2025; however, the purpose of this payment is not identified (e.g., reimbursement toward surcharge or utilities).
3. The accounting does not demonstrate compliance with the reimbursement terms set forth in the parties' November 18, 2024 agreement, and does not identify any outstanding balances owed to the estate by R. Pena, A. Pena, or J. Pena.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

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CASE#: 19PR-00308

CASE NAME: Estate of Kenneth Wheaton

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

First and Final Statement of Public Administrator Regarding Summary Disposition of Estate

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

1. Computershare Trust Company asset has not been included in any filed I&A.
2. Accounting is missing the following schedules:
 - a) Schedule A – Receipts
 - b) Schedule B – Gains on Sales
 - c) Schedule (*not identified) – Other Credits
 - d) Schedule E – Property on Hand at End of Account Period

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The accounting appears to be incomplete and missing significant corresponding schedules necessary to complete a review. The Court on its own motion, hereby continues the hearing to August 27, 2026 at 8:30 am in Courtroom 10. Any corrective pleadings are to be filed and served by the close of business on August 14, 2026.

CASE#: 21PR-00146

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Perry Wheaton

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from March 27, 2026 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 and is hereby continued to August 27, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

CASE#: 22PR-00020

CASE NAME: Estate of Jose Torres

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from March 27, 2026 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.

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CASE#: 23PR-00402

CASE NAME: Estate of Mark O'Dell

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from May 29, 2026 re: Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate

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

1. An Ex Parte Petition For Final Discharge And Order (DE-295) have not been submitted.
Prob Code §§11753, 12250

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. A Distributive Receipt was filed on June 4, 2026. The Status Hearing is continued to October 2, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 10 to allow counsel additional time to file the appropriate Ex Parte Petition for Final Discharge with the Court.

CASE#: 24PR-00150

CASE NAME: Estate of Joseph B. Pacheco

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from April 17, 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

TENTATIVE RULING:

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

CASE#: 24PR-00217

CASE NAME: Estate of Maria Concepcion Posada

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from February 20, 2026 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 advise the Court of the current case status.

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CASE#: 25PR-00422

CASE NAME: Estate of Julie Mendoza

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

(Amended) Petition for Substituted Judgment to Make Donative Transfers

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES IN THE PAPERS ARE NOTED (*as to the *Petition for Substituted Judgment to Make Donative Transfers* filed on 5/21/26):

1. No Notice to the Public Defender who represents the conservatee.
Prob Code §1215, 1460, CRC 7.51(b)

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing is continued to August 21, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of the notice deficiency.

(End of Tentative Rulings)