

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, February 20, 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#: 26PR-00021

CASE NAME: Estate of Jim Alvarez Romo

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from February 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. *Petition – Item #5a (7) and/or (8) - Are the grandchildren listed in the Petition issue of the Petitioners or issue of a predeceased child(ren)? *Remains for the 3/20/26 hearing*
 - a. Who is the legal Conservator(s) of the grandchildren who are under conservatorship? If applicable, the Waivers of Bond will need to be signed by the appropriate Conservator for each disabled grandchild under conservatorship.
2. *The party identified as D. Romo is listed as the decedent's son and under conservatorship but the Petition states he is in a care home and his "proposed conservator" is identified as Petitioner Roxanna Romo in contrast to the Waiver of Bond filed on March 10, 2026 and signed by Sandra Pacheco as the mother and conservator for D. Romo. *Newly noted for the 3/20/26 hearing*

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CASE#: 26PR-00021

CASE NAME: Estate of Jim Alvarez Romo

3. Waiver of Bond: Prob Code §8481
 - a. No Waiver of Bond signed by Alyssia Alvarado? Waiver of Bond signed by Alyssia Romo. *Corrected
 - b. No Waiver of Bond signed by each Petitioner as a beneficiary of the estate. *Corrected
 - c. A Waiver of Bond has been signed by David Romo who is alleged to be under Conservatorship.
4. 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
5. No Proof of Publication with the corresponding signed affidavit. Prob Code §8121, §8124 *Corrected

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

8:30 AM CALENDAR

CASE#: 17PR-00056

CASE NAME: Estate of Jose Ledesma

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from February 20, 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 on the current case status.

CASE#: 22PR-00252

CASE NAME: Estate of Preston Sullivan

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from December 5, 2025 re: Status Review

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 on the current case status.

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CASE#: 23PR-00063

CASE NAME: Estate of Gilberto Arellano

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from January 16, 202 re: Status Review Hearing

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. A Partial Inventory and Appraisal was filed on February 10, 2026. A Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate is hereby set for October 2, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

CASE#: 23PR-00361

CASE NAME: Estate of Vivian Ardell Watters

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from January 16, 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 advise the Court on the current case status.

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CASE#: 24PR-00259

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Brenda Faye Merrell

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

First Account and Report of Conservator of Person and Estate, Petition for Approval, and Petition for Allowance of Attorney Fees

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

1. The accounting does not reflect a *Schedule G – Liabilities as End of Account Period* reflecting the liabilities owed by the conservatee's estate.
2. What, if any, safeguards have been implemented to ensure credit lines in the conservatee's name are not opened or used?
3. The Petition does not include Court Investigation fees of \$450.00 as allowed per Probate Code 1851.5.
4. The Conservator's "care in exchange for rent" request for approval does not appear appropriate for Probate Court approval as the Conservator appears to have entered into an arrangement that appears to be characteristic of a landlord-tenant agreement.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing is continued to April 24, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of deficiencies.

CASE#: 24PR-00500

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Kenneth J. Anderson

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from January 9, 2026 re: 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 WERE PREVIOUSLY NOTED:

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

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

(End of Tentative Rulings)