

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, March 6, 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#: 23PR-00433

CASE NAME: Estate of Janice Hatcher

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from November 6, 2025 re: Status on 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) has not been submitted.
Prob Code §12250

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Status Hearing is hereby continued to May 6, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 to allow the Executor additional time to file the Ex Parte Petition for Final Discharge.

(continued on next page)

CASE#: 25PR-00264

CASE NAME: Estate of David Mack Morgan

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from January 30, 2026 re: Trial Setting Conference/Further Proceedings re: Possible Settlement Agreement

TENTATIVE RULING:

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

CASE#: 26PR-00041

CASE NAME: Estate of Frank Cardoza

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition for Letters of Administration with Full IAEA Authority

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Petition for Letters of Administration with Full IAEA Authority with no bond required to be posted is granted. Probate Referee Michael Wright is appointed. A Status Hearing ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal is hereby set for August 17, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

(continued on next page)

8:30 AM CALENDAR

CASE#: 22PR-00389

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Lois Watters

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON: .

Continued from January 9, 2026 re: Second Amended Second 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 ARE NOTED (*as to the Second Amended Second Account filed on 2/10/26):

1. The Supplemental Inventory & Appraisal filed on 12/3/25 is not signed by the Probate Referee. Prob Code §§2610, 8902
2. The accounting incorrectly adjusted the value of the real property based on an I & A filed on December 3, 2025 that is unsigned and does not appear to have been re-appraised by the Probate Referee Michael Wright.
3. The accounting is missing the corresponding schedule “*Non-Cash Assets on Hand at Beginning of Account Period- Standard and Simplified Accounts*” GC-405(PH)(2) that should reflect the conservatee’s interest in the real property located at 906 E. Alexander, Merced, CA.
4. The accounting is missing the corresponding schedule “Additional Property Received During Period of Account (GC-400 (AP))” that should have been filed to include the addition of the vehicle to the conservatee’s estate during the accounting period.
5. Schedule B – Gain on Sales does not accurately reflect the correct amount of “gain” received during the accounting period.
6. Assets remaining at the end of the accounting period consist of \$1,436.64 in cash and non-cash assets in the amount of \$125,000.00 consisting of a half interest in real property located in Merced, CA. The balances at the end of the accounting continue to improperly reflect the incorrect real property adjustment reflect at the beginning of the accounting period instead of the “carry value” of \$250,000.00 from the previously approved 1st Accounting.

TENTATIVE RULING:

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

(continued on next page)

CASE#: 23PR-00142

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of John Curreri

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from January 9, 2026 re: Third Amended 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:

1. The Accounting contains the corresponding schedule "Non-Cash Assets on Hand at Beginning of Account Period- Standard and Simplified Accounts" GC-405(PH)(2) that is blank and should reflect the conservatee's ½ interest in a mobile home located at 220 N. Sun Street, Santa Nella, CA.
2. The Petition reflects a request for \$433.00 in fees for the services of the Public Defender who was relieved as counsel for the conservatee on 8/16/24. The Public Defender was previously approved \$348.00 in the First Accounting on 11/15/24. Clarification needed regarding this request for fees as the Public Defender was relieved on 8/16/24.
3. A formal Order approving the First Accounting has never been submitted to the Court for signature.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

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:

Appearance required. Counsel to provide the Court with a current case status.

(End of Tentative Rulings)