

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, November 7, 2025
TIME: 8:15 AM and 8:30 AM
Courtroom 10

UPDATED 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.**

Updated at 2:30 pm on 11/6/25

****Denotes an Updated Tentative Ruling**

CASE#: 24PR-00060

CASE NAME: Estate of William Ernest

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from July 31, 2025 re: Status on 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 provide the Court with a status on closing of the estate.

(continued on next page)

CASE#: 25PR-00267

CASE NAME: Estate of Lahmber Singh Pabla

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from September 18, 2025 re:

1. Spousal Property Petition
2. Order to Show Cause re: Why Petition should not be Dismissed for Failure to Appear and Correct the Deficiencies

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

1. Petition is unsigned , undated and unverified. Prob Code §§1020, 1021
2. The decedent was survived by children who have not been identified in item #9 of the Petition. Prob Code §13651(a)(5)
3. The Petition does not contain allegations necessary to establish the community property claim and how the property passes to the surviving spouse without administration. Prob Code §§13651(a)(3)-(4), 13500
4. Notice has not been proved to all heirs. Prob Code §§13651(a)(5), 13655, 1020

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 25PR-00404

CASE NAME: Estate of Analeigh Marie Elizabeth Cinco

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:

1. Proposed Letters for Probate have not been lodged.
Prob Code §8006, §8400

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Petition for Administration with full IAEA Authority is granted. A \$2,012,400.00 bond is to be posted. Letters shall issue upon the posting of the appropriate bond. Probate Referee Michael Wright is appointed. A Status Hearing ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal is hereby set for April 24, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

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CASE#: 25PR-00406

CASE NAME: Estate of Doris Winzer

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition for Letters of Special Administration with General Powers

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

1. No Notice to all heirs, beneficiaries & executors. Prob Code §8100, §8110
2. Proof of Service filed on September 29, 2025 is improper and reflects the Petitioner as effectuating service on the interested parties. CCP §1013a.
3. No Declaration of Diligent Search regarding Lee S. Winzer. CRC 7.52(a)
4. No Proof of Publication with the corresponding signed affidavit.
Prob Code §8121, §8124
5. Duties & Liabilities Acknowledgment form (DE-147) signed by the personal representative has not been filed. Prob Code §8404(a)
6. Proposed Letters have not been lodged.
Prob Code §8006, §8400
7. The Petitioner has submitted documents that do not comply with California Rule of Court 1.201 redaction requirements.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

CASE#: PR000465

CASE NAME: Estate of Larry Dale Souza, Jr.

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from June 6, 2025 re: Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate

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

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

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required. Counsel to provide the Court with a status of filing an Ex Parte Petition for Final Discharge.

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CASE#: 23PR-00054

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Michael Mason

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from August 1, 2025 re:

1. First Account and Report of Former Conservator Carol McCauley and Petition for Its Settlement; For Allowance of Fees and Reimbursement of Costs to Former Conservator, and For Attorney Fees
2. Order to Show Cause as to the former Conservator Carol McCauley and her bonding company to appear and Show Cause why the Conservator of the Estate should not be surcharged \$19,000 for unaccounted for expenditures during the period Carol McCauley served as Temporary and General Conservator of the Estate
3. Motion for Suspension and Review of Legal Fees of Independent Counsel
4. First Account and Report of Conservator, Petition for Allowance of Fees to Conservator of the Person and Estate, and to Attorney

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

1. Missing bank and investment statements from time immediately preceding appointment of probate conservator and statements up to the closing period of accounting. Prob. C. 2620(c). [*Financial Statements were submitted on 5/13/2023](#) [**Denotes items addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCauley](#)
 - a. The following bank and financial statements to be provided:
 - i. Wells Fargo Account #565:
 1. June 2023 through November 2023 [*Addressed in 10/1/24 Supplement](#)
 2. January 2024 [*Addressed in 10/1/24 Supplement](#)
 - ii. Wells Fargo Account #598: [*Addressed in 10/1/24](#)
 1. May 2023 through July 2023
 2. September 2023 through December 2023
 - iii. LPL Financial: [** Addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCauley](#)
 1. June 2023 through January 2024
 - iv. Edward Jones Account 08-1-5: [** Addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCauley](#)
 1. May 2023 through January 2024
 - v. Edward Jones Account 455-1-4: [** Addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCauley](#)
 1. April 2023 through July 2023
 2. October 2023
 3. January 2024
2. Court's discretion regarding Check no. 2819, in the amount of \$2,000.00, from Wells Fargo Checking account xxxx-7565 by Lori Chea written immediately preceding appointment of Conservatorship. [**Addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCauley](#)
3. Summary of Account for 5/5/23 through 12/15/23: [*Addressed in 10/1/24 Supplement](#)
 - a. Property on Hand at Beginning of Account Period starting on 5/5/23:
 - i. *Carry Value* of Non-Cash Assets in the amount of \$335,875.64 differs from the amount of Non-Cash Assets in the amount of \$335,463.39 at the end of the previous Accounting period ending on 5/5/23.

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CASE#: 23PR-00054

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Michael Mason

4. The accounting reflects excess expenditures for Amazon and Walmart purchases that require additional clarification for:
 - a. Six (6) separate Walmart purchases on the same day of June 20, 2023, totaling \$602.00
 - b. Walmart purchases on 11/22/2023 for \$2,272.04, re who made the purchase, reason for the expenditure, including receipts. [*Addressed in filed Supplemental Declarations](#)
 - c. Receipts to be provided for all Amazon and Walmart purchases.
5. Accounting does not reflect any payments to the following utilities:
 - a. PG&E: [*All addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCaulley](#)
 - i. May 2023 through September 2023
 - ii. November 2023 and December 2023
 - b. Waste Management: [*All addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCaulley](#)
 - i. May 2023
 - ii. June 2023
 - iii. August 2023 through October 2023
 - iv. December 2023
6. Additional location clarification and receipts needed for the following travel Expenses incurred by the Conservator of the Estate:
 - a. 11/13/24 – KOA - \$52.88 [*Corrected](#)
 - b. 11/14/24 – Seven Feathers - \$305.93 [*Corrected](#)
 - c. 11/15/24 – KOA - \$52.88 [*Corrected](#)
7. The following vehicle expenses require clarification as to the benefit to the conservatee:
[*All have been addressed in filed Supplemental Declarations](#)
 - a. Fastrack Violation on 12/3/23 - \$7.00
 - b. Fuel expenses totaling \$1,333.72 as it appears the conservatee's vehicle was fueled weekly at an average expense of \$74.09.
 - c. The accounting reflects two fueling charges for the same day:
 - i. 8/1/24 – Chevron - \$81.00
 - ii. 8/1/24 – Shell - \$57.27
8. Receipts to be provided for Eagle OneSolution for garage door repairs on:
 - a. 10/18/23 - \$1,138.50
 - b. 10/23/23 - \$1,242.00
9. Additional information needed concerning disbursement to Chosen Property for \$301.44 on 6/23/23.
10. Additional information needed as to what expenses are shared by the conservatee, Marian Mason and any trust owned asset. [*Addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCaulley](#)
11. Additional information and receipts needed concerning the following "Unknown Charge" attributed to Lori Chea:
 - a. 5/30/23 - Target - \$11.46
 - b. 5/31/23 – SEI - \$67.82
 - c. 6/6/23 – Lori Chea - \$2,500.00 [*Addressed in filed Supplemental Declarations](#)
 - d. 6/12/23 – Target - \$87.36 [*Addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCaulley](#)
 - e. 6/13/23 – Target - \$17.31
 - f. 6/26/23 – SEI - \$45.28
 - g. 7/24/23 – Target - \$51.83
 - h. 7/24/24 – SEI – 64.04

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CASE#: 23PR-00054

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Michael Mason

- i. 8/1/23 – Stagnaro Bro Santa Cruz - \$46.38 **Addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCaulley*
 - j. 9/22/23 – Target - \$37.30
 - k. 10/18/23 – A-1-A (repair at house) - \$115.00
 - l. 11/27/23 – Lori Chea (reimbursement for winter clothing) - \$455.27 **Addressed in filed Supplemental Declarations*
12. Clarification of whether conservatee Michael Mason is named in any capacity in any other trust, including a separate property trust, other than the Mason Community Property Trust and as a beneficiary in the Sturtz Trust. **Addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCaulley*
13. Conservatee's beneficial interest in the Sturtz Trust has not been included in any Inventory and Appraisal. **Addressed in filed Supplementals*
14. What the is the current status of the Mason Community Property Trust? Was there a Resignation by the Trustor Michael Mason? **Addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCaulley*
15. Two computers and printer purchased with estate funds have not been inventoried. **Addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCaulley*
16. Does the conservatee have any life insurance policies? **Addressed in 7/11/24 Declaration of C. McCaulley*
17. No notice to any interested parties of the Second Supplement to First Account and Report of Former Conservator Carol McCaulley filed on July 11, 2024. CRC 7.53(b) **Corrected*
18. *The Partial Inventory and Appraisal filed on October 23, 2025 by the Public Conservator's Office is missing the page reflecting the identification of the estate asset that was valued. *Newly noted deficiency for the 11/7/25 hearing.*
19. *First Account and Report of Conservator filed on October 23, 2025 remains under review. *Newly noted deficiency for the 11/7/25 hearing.*

****Updated TENTATIVE RULING:***

No appearance required. Due to the complexity of the issues, the Court on its own motion hereby continues the matters to a special set hearing on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 10. The Court is in receipt of the former Conservator's six previously filed Supplements and hereby orders no additional Supplements are to be filed without leave of the Court. The Supplements as filed are confusing and overly burdensome and appear to be an intent to obfuscate the issue before the Court.

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CASE#: 23PR-00282

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Valton Andrew Kuykendall

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from August 8, 2025 re: First Account and Report of Conservator of Person and Estate; Petition for Allowance of Fees to Attorney for Conservator, Dispense with Accounting, and Dispense with the Requirement of a Bond

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

NOTED: [*All deficiencies have been addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)

1. Accounting does not reflect the conservatee's 50% interest in the real property identified in the Inventory and Appraisal filed on March 8, 2024. [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
2. Bank Statements from the time immediately preceding appointment and the statements for end of closing period of accounting are required to be provided to the Court with the Accounting. Prob Code §2620(c)(2) [*Corrected](#)
3. Additional information needed concerning the following refunds:
 - a. Central Loan Administration [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
4. Transfer of funds between the conservatorship estate accounts should not have been considered income. [*Corrected](#)
5. The nature of the deposits from the conservator's personal account ending #8627 to the conservatee's two accounts ending in #2032 and #5563. Why were these deposits made? What was the source of these funds deposited? [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
6. The following disbursements require additional information/clarification:
 - a. Apple.com Bill (87 charges total) - \$1,367.32 *
 - b. Dish Network – Why was there a significant increase in the February and April 2024 payments. [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
 - c. Fast Track Car Wash monthly carwash when the conservatee does not own a vehicle [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
7. The following disbursements require additional information/clarification: [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
 - a. Apple.com Bill (87 charges total) - \$1,367.32
 - i. January (6 charges) - \$69.94
 - ii. February (5 charges) - \$69.95
 - iii. March (16 charges) - \$232.73
 - iv. April (15 charges) - \$164.75
 - v. May (6 charges) - \$86.93
 - vi. June (6 charges) - \$85.91
 - vii. July (6 charges) - \$81.94
 - viii. August (7 charges) - \$190.51
 - ix. September (7 charges) - \$139.83
 - x. October (6 charges) - \$96.93
 - xi. November (7 charges) - \$147.90

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CASE#: 23PR-00282

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Valton Andrew Kuykendall

8. The following are reflected as multiple expenses with no information as to the nature of the purchases and how they were a benefit to the conservatee: [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)

- a. Walmart (23 purchases) – \$1,426.65
- b. Walgreens (10 purchases) - \$954.60
- c. Balance of Nature (12 purchases) - \$840.62
- d. Melaleuca Order (8 purchases) - \$887.10
- e. MK Cometick (22 purchases) - \$13,075.05
 - i. 1/2/24 – Debit - \$714.88
 - ii. 1/9/24 - Debit - \$853.30
 - iii. 2/2/24 - Debit - \$2,518.99
 - iv. 2/12/24 - Debit - \$802.60
 - v. 3/4/24 - Debit - \$1,917.24
 - vi. 3/6/24 – Debit - \$853.73
 - vii. 3/18/24 - Debit - \$733.01
 - viii. 3/28/24 – Debit - \$123.21
 - ix. 4/3/24 - Debit - \$767.44
 - x. 4/12/24 - Debit - \$725.86
 - xi. 4/24/24 - Debit - \$729.66
 - xii. 4/26/24 – Debit - \$1,508.79
 - xiii. 4/29/24 - Debit - \$284.25
 - xiv. 4/30/24 - Debit - \$250.00
- f. Paypal (9 disbursements with no information concerning these transactions one of which was \$108.19) - \$232.44 [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
- g. Venmo/Zelle payments to: [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
 - i. Samanta Turne
 - 1. 5/28/24 - \$134.00
 - 2. 3/12/24 - \$15.00
 - 3. 3/12/24 - \$130.00
 - 4. 3/12/24 - \$63.27
 - 5. 3/12/24 - \$129.00
 - 6. 3/12/24 - \$90.00
 - 7. 4/1/24 - \$131.00
 - 8. 7/8/24 - \$391.00
 - 9. 7/8/24 - \$60.00
 - 10. 7/8/24 - \$2,693.74
 - 11. 7/8/24 - \$129.00
 - ii. 5/21/24 - Andrew Harvey - \$75.00
 - iii. 2/15/24 - Jose Viegas - \$15.00
 - iv. 4/3/24 - Cynthia Homen - \$70.00
 - v. 4/3/24 - Daren Smith - \$70.00
 - vi. 7/8/24 - Glenn Smith – \$8.00
 - vii. 3/8/24 - Lisa Sand - \$47.00
 - viii. 9/30/24 - Marta Gonzalez - \$12.00
 - ix. 1/16/24 - Unidentified person - \$48.00

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CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Valton Andrew Kuykendall

- h. 8/7/24 - Pure Flix - \$107.74
 - i. 2/20/24 - O'Reilly - \$26.06
 - j. 5/8/24 – Sq Brides for a Cause (bridal dress) - \$913.50
 - k. 1/2/24 – Fields of Ice Turlock - \$60.00
 - l. 6/24/24 – Bank Fees - \$100.00
 - m. 7/8/24 – COAL - \$2,120.46
 - n. 7/8/24 – COAL - \$459.35
9. What is Vadip Ddic? [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
10. Are Central Loan Administration and Loan Depot Mortgage holders? [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
11. Fast Track Car Wash – payments for a \$39.99 car wash plan when the conservatorship estate does not include any interest in a vehicle [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
- a. Expenses that occurred prior to the establishment of the conservatorship: [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
 - i. 3/11/21 – Walmart - \$113.85
 - ii. 3/11/21 – Walmart - \$35.60
 - iii. 3/11/21 - Casque Wines – Loomis, CA - \$41.84
 - iv. 3/11/21 – Sally Beauty - \$40.14
 - v. 3/11/21 – Happy Feet Massage - \$67.00
 - vi. 3/11/21 – Happy Feet Massage - \$100.00
 - vii. 3/11/21 – Home Depot - \$406.90
 - viii. 3/11/21 – Flower Farm Loomis, CA - \$36.75
 - ix. 3/11/21 - Flower Farm Loomis, CA – 29.09
12. Expenses that should be included in the next accounting period: [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)
- a. 5/15/25 – Dollar General - \$8.35
 - b. 1/5/25 – Hilmar Water - \$65.30
13. Court's discretion concerning counsel's request for fees as a reasonable amount payable by the Estate. Prob Code §2642, CRC 7.751
14. Additional information needed describing the qualifications of non-attorneys Clara Buck and Maka Stevenson as required by B&P §6450, CRC 7.754, 7.703(e). [*Addressed in 7/17/25 Supplement](#)

[*Updated TENTATIVE RULING:](#)

No appearance required. Due to the complexity of the issues, the Court on its own motion hereby continues the matters to a special set hearing on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 10.

(End of Tentative Rulings)