

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: Monday, August 17, 2026
TIME: 8:15 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.**

CASE#: 22PR-00250

CASE NAME: Estate of Robert W. Robson

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from August 18, 2025 re: Status Hearing

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. A Status Report was filed on August 6, 2026. The hearing is continued to March 1, 2027 at 8:15 am for a Status Hearing on the Closing of the Estate.

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CASE#: 22PR-00251

CASE NAME: Estate of Sharleen G. Robson

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from August 18, 2025 re: Status Hearing

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. A Status Report was filed on August 6, 2026. The hearing is continued to March 1, 2027 at 8:15 am for a Status Hearing on the Closing of the Estate.

CASE#: 24PR-00307

CASE NAME: Estate of Catherine Mary Smith

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from June 8, 2026 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 advise the Court of the current case status.

CASE#: 25PR-00015

CASE NAME: Estate of Luis Aguilar

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from April 27, 2026 re: Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the estate

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES IN THE PAPER 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 advise the Court on the current case status.

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CASE#: 25PR-00021

CASE NAME: Estate of Bryan Matthew Van Worth

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

First Supplement to First and Final Report of Administrator on Waiver of Account; For Allowance of Compensation to Administrator for Ordinary Services and to Administrator's Attorney For Ordinary and Reimbursement of Costs Advancing; and Petition for Final Distribution

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

1. Request for Extraordinary Compensation remains at the discretion of the Court.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 25PR-00133

CASE NAME: Estate of Sandra Yvette Anaya

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from March 9, 2026 re: Status Hearing

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. An Inventory and Appraisal has been filed. A Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate to be set for April 26, 2027 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

CASE#: 25PR-00509

CASE NAME: Estate of Nelda M. Affholter

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from March 12, 2026 re: Status Hearing ensuring the Filing of an Inventory and Appraisal

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. An Inventory and Appraisal was filed on July 24, 2026. The *First and Final Account* currently set for October 22, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 is hereby confirmed.

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CASE#: 26PR-00041

CASE NAME: Estate of Frank Cardoza

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from March 6, 2026 re: Status Hearing ensuring the Filing of an Inventory and Appraisal

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. An Inventory and Appraisal was filed on June 9, 2026. The *Report of Administrator on Waiver of Account, Petition for Allowance of Statutory Compensation to Attorney for Ordinary Services and for Final Distribution* currently set for October 29, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 is hereby confirmed.

CASE#: 26PR-00244

CASE NAME: In the Matter of the Giuseppe and Liboria Castiglione Family Trust

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Ex Parte Petition for Order Confirming Title to Trust Assets

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

1. A copy of the shareholder agreement and articles of incorporation of GINO/GIUSEPPE, INC. to be provided to the court for review.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Court on its own motion continues the hearing to September 30, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10. The requested document to be filed with the Court by the close of business on September 16, 2026.

CASE#: 26PR-00274

CASE NAME: Estate of Hiroko T. Watkins

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary with Full IAEA Authority

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary with Full IAEA Authority and no bond required is granted. The decedent's will is admitted into Probate. Probate Referee Michael Wright is appointed. A Status Hearing ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal is hereby set for January 20, 2027 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

(End of Tentative Rulings)