

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, March 2, 2026
TIME: 8:15 AM
Courtroom 10

PROBATE CALENDAR

updated on 2/27/25 at 12:30 pm

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#: 23PR-00283

CASE NAME: Estate of Jorge Alberto Armenta

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from November 13, 2025 re:
First and Final Report of Administrator and for Final Distribution and Petition for Allowance of Statutory Compensation to Attorney for Ordinary Services

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

1. A revised proposed Order reflecting the sole heir as an adult will need to be lodged.
MSC 100 E.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

(continued on next page)

CASE#: 23PR-00286

CASE NAME: Guardianship of Nubia Armenta

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from November 19, 2025 re:

1. Further Proceedings
2. Temporary Restraining Orders

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

1. The minor has now attained the age of majority. A Probate Code compliant accounting is not due and appropriately noticed for hearing/approval. The accounting should account for all assets/interest in assets belonging to the ward's estate during the Guardianship period. Prob Code §2620, 2627

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required. The Guardian should now provide a Probate Code compliant accounting to be filed and appropriately noticed for hearing/approval.

CASE#: 23PR-00408

CASE NAME: Estate of Arthur Collins

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition for Settlement of First and Final Account and For Final Distribution, For Allowance of Compensation for Ordinary and Extraordinary Services of Executor, and For Allowance of Ordinary and Extraordinary Attorney's Fees and Reimbursement of Advanced Costs

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

Remains under review.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The *Petition for Settlement of First and Final Account and For Allowance of Compensation for Ordinary and Extraordinary Services of Executor, and for Allowance of Ordinary and Extraordinary Attorney's Fees and Reimbursement of Advanced Costs* remains under review. On the Court's own Motion the hearing is continued to April 13, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10. The Administrator is also directed to send notice of the hearing and the Petition to the California State Bar as the decedent had an IOLTA account that remains in the Administrator's possession with possible client funds that have not been disposed of and formally accounted for. Also on the Court's own Motion, case #22PR-00108 Estate of Elsa Collins is hereby set for a Status Hearing on April 13, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. for the Administrator to provide the Court with a current status on closing of the estate.

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CASE#: 23PR-00464

CASE NAME: Estate of Jaclyn L. Sears

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from October 30, 2025 re: Status on Closing of the Estate

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

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

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Status Review Hearing is continued to May 27, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 to allow counsel additional time to file the appropriate Distributive Receipts and Ex Parte Petition for Final Discharge with the Court.

CASE#: 24PR-00057

CASE NAME: Estate of Gregoria M. Cosio

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from September 8, 2025 re: Status on Closing of the Estate

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

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

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Status Review Hearing is continued to May 27, 2026 at 8:15 am allowing counsel additional time to file the appropriate Distributive Receipts and Ex Parte Petition for Final Discharge with the Court.

CASE#: 25PR-00282

CASE NAME: Estate of Matthew Fell

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from December 15, 2025 re: Status Hearing

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

1. An Inventory and Appraisal has not been filed. Prob Code §8800(b) [*Corrected](#)

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

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CASE#: 25PR-00305

CASE NAME: Estate of Jerald Earl Hawkins

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from September 8, 2025 re: 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 has been filed. A Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate is hereby set for October 12, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

CASE#: 25PR-00436

CASE NAME: In the Matter of the Eva Pruett Pooled Special Needs Trust

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition to Establish, Join, and Fund a Sub-Account for Eva Pruett Into the California Charities Pooled Special Needs Trust; To Set Bond; To Authorize Expanded Investment Powers; to Authorize Interim Trustee Fees; and To Authorize Attorney Fees and Costs

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

1. Regarding Exhibit A – copy of the *Trust Set Up Documents for the Charities*:
 - a. Reflects an incorrect amount of \$95,000 to be deposited.
 - b. Will the new (reduced) amount deposited amount change the amounts/fees requested/charged to the trust/beneficiary?
 - c. Who is the designated beneficiary advocate ?
 - d. Schedule C: Remainder Beneficiary Designation simply states “heirs at law” as the named remainder beneficiary which may conflict with Medi-Cal payback requirements for First Party Special Needs Trusts.
 - e. What, if any, are the fees for the following?
 - i. Annual audits
 - ii. Termination
 - iii. Bonding and Accounting fees
2. Is there any other fee schedule for California Charities Pooled Special Needs Trust other than the fees noted in the “California CPT Joinder Agreement”?
3. Is there a required minimum balance to maintain participation in the pooled SNT?
4. Court’s discretion regarding authority to invest over 5 years.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing is continued to April 15, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of the deficiencies.

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****ADD-ON****

CASE#: 16PR-00387

CASE NAME: Estate of Robert Allen Jackson

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Order to Show Cause that Mark Olson, his attorney, and his Bonding Company, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company Appear

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.

(End of Tentative Rulings)