

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, May 4, 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#: 24PR-00159

CASE NAME: Estate of Patricia Ellis

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from February 23, 2026 re: Status of Closing of the Estate

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-00382

CASE NAME: Estate of Melissa Marie Fries

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from February 18, 2026 re: Status ensuring Closing of the Estate

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

1. An Inventory and Appraisal has not been filed. Prob Code §8800(b) *Corrected
2. 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#: 24PR-00490

CASE NAME: Estate of Karen Kent

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

First and Final Report of Executor; Petition for Final Distribution on Waiver of Account; and For Payment of Compensation to Attorney for Ordinary Services

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

1. Satisfaction and Release of Creditor's Claims have not been filed for the following creditors whose claims have been satisfied:
 - a. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
 - b. Stanford Health Care
 - c. AscensionPoint Recovery Services (Resurgent Receivables, LLC)
2. The following Creditor's Claims have not been addressed in the Petition:
 - a. AscensionPoint Recovery Services (Synchrony Bank) filed on 8/4/26
 - b. AscensionPoint Recovery Services (Citibank, NA) filed on 8/8/26
3. A new proposed Order will need to be lodged as the current proposed Order only addressed three of the five Creditors' Claims.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing is continued to May 28, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of deficiencies.

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CASE#: 25PR-00011

CASE NAME: Estate of Romulo Sotelo Estrada

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from March 23, 2026 re: Status Hearing 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 *Corrected

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Petition for Final Account currently set for hearing on August 10, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 is confirmed.

CASE#: 25PR-00243

CASE NAME:

In the Matter of the Norma B. Bacal Revocable Living Trust, dated March 30, 2019

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from March 4, 2026 re: Further Proceedings:

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

1. *Objection to the Petition to Compel Actions by Trustee; and To Remove Trustee* was filed on August 15, 2025
2. *First Account Current of Trust and Reservation of Right to Request Trustee Fees* has not been served on all beneficiaries. Prob Code §17203

TENTATIVE RULING:

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

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CASE#: 25PR-00301

CASE NAME: Estate of Joanna C. Lafler

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from May 4, 2026 re: Status Hearing ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal

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

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

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. An Inventory and Appraisal was filed on March 3, 2026. The Petition for Final Account currently set for hearing on August 13, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 is confirmed.

(End of Tentative Rulings)