

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, September 21, 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.**

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CASE#: 23PR-00286

CASE NAME: Guardianship of Nubia Armenta

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from July 29, 2026 re: First and Final Account and Report of Guardian of the Person and Estate, and Petition for Allowance of Attorney Fees; Declaration of Genicis Aguilar, Esq. Re: Request for Attorney Fees

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

1. The Accounting is incomplete and does not include the required supporting schedules, including the schedule of assets on hand and any proposed-distribution schedule required by Probate Code §1063. **Addressed in the Supplement filed on 8/19/26*
2. The Petition states there were no disbursements from the blocked account during the accounting period; however, the missing funds appear to represent an amount owed by A. Lopez and are not properly identified as a loss. Please clarify the amount as an asset receivable, or otherwise explain its treatment, consistent with Probate Code §1063. **Addressed in the Supplement filed on 8/19/26*
3. The Petition further does not request an order preserving or directing collection of the debt owed by the mother. Please clarify whether the unpaid amount remains an asset receivable of the guardianship or estate, and request appropriate relief to preserve and enforce collection rather than treating the amount as a loss. **Addressed in the Supplement filed on 8/19/26*
4. No proof of service is attached to the Supplemental Response to Probate Notes filed on 8/19/26. Prob. Code §§ 1215, 2620; CRC 7.575 **Newly noted for the 9/21/26 hearing*
5. The Supplement filed on 8/19/26 is insufficient to cure the accounting deficiency as it materially changes the treatment of the \$10,705.97 from an unexplained missing amount to an asserted receivable without a complete, revised accounting. Prob. Code §§ 1060–1064, 2620; CRC 7.575 **Newly noted for the 9/21/26 hearing*

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required The Supplement is insufficient to cure the accounting deficiency because it materially changes the treatment of the \$10,705.97 from an unexplained missing amount to an asserted receivable without a complete, revised accounting. The Petitioner should file and serve a complete Amended First and Final Account and Amended Petition for Settlement, rather than Supplemental Schedules alone. The hearing is continued to November 12, 2026, at 8:15 a.m. in Department 10. The Amended pleadings to be filed and served by close of business on October 30, 2026.

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CASE#: 24PR-00021

CASE NAME: Estate of Charles Gregory Reeves

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from July 29, 2026 re: Waiver of Accounting and Report of Executor, Petition for Final Distribution and Discharge; Status Report

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

1. Waivers of accounting have not been filed by all interested parties, so a full accounting remains required. Probate Code § 10954 and California Rule of Court 7.550 permits waiver of an accounting only when the statutory waiver requirements are met; otherwise, the fiduciary must provide the accounting. **Waiver of Accounting remains deficient as to beneficiary J. Reeves*
2. Was notice given to all interested parties regarding the sale of the real property under the Independent Administration of Estates Act (IAEA), as required by Probate Code § 10580 et seq., including any notice of proposed action to all persons entitled to receive notice under Probate Code section 10581?
3. No explanation has been provided as to why the real property was sold for \$205,000 when the appraised value was \$290,000. Under Probate §10309, a private sale of estate real property generally must be at least 90% of the appraised value unless an exception applies.
4. The Petition does not clearly identify the assets on hand at the end of administration or the proposed distribution of those assets. Please clarify the remaining assets and corresponding proposed distribution, with reference to Probate Code §10954 and California Rules of Court rule 7.550
5. A proposed order was lodged on May 27, 2026, but does not clearly specify the estate assets remaining on hand at the end of administration or the proposed distribution of those assets. Please provide a proposed order that clarifies the assets remaining for distribution and the corresponding distribution terms.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Executor is allowed one final continuance to correct the identified deficiencies. The hearing is continued to November 6, 2026, at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10. Any corrective pleadings are to be filed and served no later than the close of business on October 23, 2026.

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CASE#: 25PR-00025

CASE NAME: Estate of Armando Granado

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from August 7, 2026 re: Status ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal and the 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)
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#: 25PR-00247

CASE NAME: Estate of Alan Hensher

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from July 27, 2026 re: Status Hearing Ensuring the Filing of an Inventory and Appraisal

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

1. An Inventory and Appraisal has not been filed. Prob Code §8800(b)

TENTATIVE RULING:

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

CASE#: 26PR-00078

CASE NAME: Estate of Curtis Ashley Gerard Linden

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from March 26, 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 April 8, 2026. A Status Hearing ensuring the closing of the estate is hereby set for April 26, 2027 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

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CASE#: 26PR-00317

CASE NAME: Estate of Daniel Kevin Locke

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 is granted. No bond is required to be posted. Probate Referee Michael Wright is hereby appointed. A Status Hearing ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal is hereby set for February 24, 2027 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

(End of Tentative Rulings)