

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: Thursday, April 23, 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#: 21PR-00285

CASE NAME: Estate of Norman L. Williams

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from January 28, 2026 re: Status on Closing of the Estate

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

Appearance required. Counsel to advise the Court on the status of closing of the estate.

(continued on next page)

CASE#: 24PR-00321

CASE NAME: Estate of Donald Duane Passarino

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from April 8, 2026 re: Review of Case Status

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

1. Schedule A does not reflect any income received from the sale of the various trailers as reflected in Schedule B – Gains on Sales [*Corrected](#)
2. Distributive receipts have not been filed for the specific personal items bequeathed per the decedent's will. [*Corrected](#)
3. Objection filed 3/20/26 by beneficiary Jesus Magallon Flores. [*Addressed at 4/8/26 hrg](#)

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required. Counsel to the Court of the current case status.

CASE#: 26PR-00095

CASE NAME: In the Petition of Jordan Webb

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition to Establish Fact, Time, and Place of Birth

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

1. Where does the child currently reside?
2. The Court may require notice to the mother of the minor child. Prob Code §1202
3. Declaration in Support of Petition does not comply with California Rule of Court 1.201.
4. A proposed Order has been lodged that requires significant interlineation regarding the date the Petition was filed, the hearing date and reflects the entire bottom portion of the proposed order as blank.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

(continued on next page)

CASE#: 26PR-00100

CASE NAME:

Estate of Sharon Englehart-Wade, formerly O'donnel, Kilgore, Dalton, Todd

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:

1. Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary is undated by the Petitioner.
2. The Petition references a handwritten note/codicil which is purportedly written by the decedent but is not lodged and attached to the Petition as Attachment 3f(2). Prob Code §8200
3. A typed copy of the holographic instrument has not been attached to the Petition. Prob Code §8002
4. Clarification needed if the Petitioner is requesting that the decedent's self-proving will be revoked in favor of an undated and unsigned holographic instrument. Prob Code §§6111, 6120
5. Proof of Service filed on March 9, 2026 is improper and reflects service was effectuated by the Petitioner. The Proof of Service is also deficient as it does not provide the date service was effectuated. CCP §1013a.(1)
6. No Proof of Publication with the corresponding signed affidavit. Prob Code §§8121, 8124
7. Proposed Letters for Probate have not been lodged. Prob Code §§8006, 8400

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing is continued to June 3, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10. Any corrective pleadings are to be filed with the Court by the close of business on May 27, 2026. The Petitioner is encouraged to seek legal assistance or consult an attorney.

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CASE#: PR000763

CASE NAME: Matter of the Cathy Marie Talai Special Needs Disability Trust

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from August 13, 2025 re: Eighth Account and Final Account and Report of Successor Trustee; Petition for Trustee and Attorney Fees

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

1. The Petition states the Trustee has not paid himself any fees for the Eighth accounting period in contrast to Schedule C-2 reflecting the Trustee has paid himself \$1,500.00 as follows:
 - 11/1/24 Ck#2696 Trustee fee - \$750.00
 - 12/1/24 Ck#2701 Trustee fee - \$750.00
2. The Amendment filed on 3/23/26 is a partial document that contains significant proposed distribution changes and increased fee requests that are contingent upon liquidation of trust assets that remain outstanding. The trust estate does not appear fully administered and not in a posture to close.
3. Has the trustee provided notice to Creditor A. Talai of the rejection of the Creditor's Claim? Prob Code §19250, et seq.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required. Absent any Objection, the Court's intention is to deny the Eighth Account and Final Account and Report of Successor Trustee; Petition for Trustee and Attorney Fees and the Supplement. The Petition and Amendment filed on March 23, 2026 does not support approval of the Final Accounting at this time as the trust administration does not yet appear complete. Trust investments remain to be liquidated and until the remaining assets are reduced to cash or otherwise fully accounted for, the estate cannot be deemed complete. The Final Account should reflect the complete administration of the trust, including resolution of remaining assets, liabilities, expenses, and distributions.

(End of Tentative Rulings)