

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, August 13, 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#: 16PR-00164

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Christopher Borba

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from July 9, 2026:

1. Fourth Account and Report of Co-Conservators; Petition to Approve Account, For Reimbursement of Costs and for Allowance of Fees to Attorney
2. Fifth Account and Report of Co-Conservators; Petition to Approve Account, For Reimbursement of Costs and for Allowance of Fees to Attorney

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

1. Court's discretion concerning counsel's request for fees in the 5th accounting are "just and reasonable" for the work completed during the conservatorship period. Prob Code §2642
2. Court Investigator Fees in the amount of \$450.00 to be assessed per Probate Code 1851.5.
3. The *Supplemental Declaration of Stuart B. Spencer regarding Attorney's Fees-Fourth and Fifth Accounts and Reports* has not been served on the conservatee and Co-Conservators. Prob Code §§1460, 2621, CRC 7.53(b) [*Corrected](#)

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

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CASE#: CU110713

CASE NAME: Rivas v. County of Merced, et al. (SNT)

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from July 9, 2026 re: Petition for Approval of Fourteenth Account and Report of Co-Trustees; Fees

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

1. Notice of the Declaration filed on 6/9/26 has not been served on all trustees, beneficiary and any other interested parties. Prob Code §17203 **Corrected*
2. The request for attorney fees is not supported by any declaration (nature, benefit, time expended, detail of services provided & amount. **Declaration filed 6/9/26 remains at the Court's discretion.*

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 25PR-00301

CASE NAME: Estate of Joanna C. Lafler

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

First and Final Report of Administrator on Waiver of Account and Petition for Allowance of Statutory Compensation to Administrator and Attorney and For Final Distribution

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

1. Creditor's Claim by AT&T Mobility filed on 3/3/26 remains unaddressed.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing is continued to September 17, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of the deficiency.

CASE#: 26PR-00216

CASE NAME: In re: Bonnie Gale Winter 2024 Trust A Trust

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition for Conveyance or Transfer of Property Claimed to Belong to Trust

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

1. A proposed Order has not been lodged. MSC RULE 100 E.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Petition for Conveyance or Transfer of Property Claimed to Belong to Trust is approved. Counsel to submit a proposed order.

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CASE#: 26PR-00268

CASE NAME: Pauline F. Semoes

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:

1. No Notice to all heirs, beneficiaries & executors. Prob Code §8100, §8110
2. No Proof of Publication with the corresponding signed affidavit.
Prob Code §8121, §8124
3. Proposed Order for Probate has not been lodged.
Prob Code §8006, §8400

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

Superior Court of California, County of Merced
PROBATE/CONSERVATORSHIP CALENDAR
HONORABLE: Peter MacLaren

DATE: Thursday, August 13, 2026
TIME: 8:15 AM
Courtroom 10

PROBATE CALENDAR
Special Set

CASE#: 25PR-00176

CASE NAME: Estate of Claudia Lee Menke

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

First and Final Report of Executor on Waiver of Account and Petition for Allowance of Compensation to Executor and Attorneys for Ordinary Services and Costs and for Extraordinary Attorney's Fees and For Final Distribution

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance is required. The *First and Final Report of Executor on Waiver of Account and Petition for Allowance of Compensation to Executor and Attorneys for Ordinary Services and Costs and for Extraordinary Attorney's Fees and for Final Distribution* is approved. The Status Hearing Ensuring the Closing of the Estate currently set for August 31, 2026 is continued and reset for November 5, 2026, at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

(End of Tentative Rulings)