

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: Donald Proietti

DATE: Thursday, August 20, 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 April 23, 2026 re:

1. Status on Closing of the Estate
2. Order to Show Cause for Failing to Appear

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

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

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

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CASE#: 22PR-00236

CASE NAME: Estate of Lily McDow

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition for Final Distribution

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

1. The estate does not appear ready to close. The Petitioner alleges pending federal case No. 1:21-CV-00119, references a Jackson National Life Insurance settlement, and states the estate is not ready to be fully closed. The Petitioner to explain the estate's interest in the litigation, settlement proceeds, possible liability or costs, and any required reserve, or show why final distribution may proceed. Prob. Code §11640
2. Estate assets are not reconciled:
 - a. The Petitioner should account for the Jackson National settlement.
 - b. The \$22,707.83 cash received from the distribution from the decedent's conservatorship estate.
 - c. The unexplained \$3,300.00 difference between the receipt that was to have been received from the conservatorship estate and the proposed \$19,407.83 distribution; the residence valued at \$390,000.00; and the \$1,500.00 in furniture.
 - d. The Petitioner shall provide the order allegedly authorizing the residence transfer in conservatorship case no. 19PR-00191. Prob. Code §10954 (c)(1); Cal. Rules of Court 7.550.
3. No written Waiver of Account has been filed. The Petitioner shall file a valid written Waiver of Account or submit a probate code compliant Final Account and Report. Prob. Code §10954
4. No proposed order has been lodged. MSC Rule 100 E.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The hearing on the *Petition for Final Distribution* is continued to October 2, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10. Any corrective pleadings to be filed by the close of business on September 16, 2026.

(continued on next page)

CASE#: 24PR-00335

CASE NAME: Estate of Deborah Joyce Collins

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from July 1, 2026 re:

1. Petition for Final Account and Status Report; Request for Approval of Acts, Confirmation of Distributions, and Discharge of Co-Administrators
2. Review of Case Status

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

1. The Petition filed on 4/9/26 is defective. The pleading does not contain the allegations necessary for a California Final Distribution order. The pleading is narrative in form and does not clearly request settlement of the final account and final distribution. It also omits or insufficiently states the distributees' identities and addresses, the intestate relationship of the heirs, the specific property to be distributed, the character of the assets, and whether all debts, expenses, and taxes have been paid or provided for. The petition should also address any required receipts for distribution and whether DHCS notice under Probate Code section 9202 was required and given. Prob. Code §§ 1062 - 1064, 9050, 9054, 9202-9203, 10585, 10586, 11640, 11751, 11753, 12200, 12201, CRC 7.403, CRC 7.651, CRC 7.652(a)

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 24PR-00382

CASE NAME: Estate of Melissa Marie Fries

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Complaint for Quiet Title Action and Probate 850 Petition

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

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

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CASE#: 26PR-00240

CASE NAME: In the Matter of The Raymond Navarro Revocable Living Trust

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition to Confirm Property as Trust Asset (850 Petition)

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

1. The Petitioner resides in Sacramento County; no facts establish Merced County as the Trust's principal place of administration. Prob. Code §17005 (a)(1), (b)
2. The Petition alleges a lifetime transfer to the Petitioner individually but does not provide the operative recorded instrument or facts supporting trust ownership despite that transfer.
3. The Petition at paragraph 12 omits the complete legal description.
4. Attached Supporting Documents:
 - a. The Small Estate Affidavit, unsigned change-in-ownership statement.
 - b. The Supplemental Assessment Notice do not establish title in the name of the Trust.
 - c. There does not appear to be an established complete recorded chain of title clarifying whether Petitioner took title individually or as trustee.
5. The Petitioner is appearing in propria persona and the request for legal representation through a legal advocate Ms. Bailey appears inappropriate unless the legal advocate is a licensed attorney in California. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 6125, 6126
6. Notice has not been provided utilizing the required and mandatory *Notice of Hearing—Decedent's Estate or Trust* (DE-115). Prob. Code § 851(a); Cal. Rules of Court 7.52(a).

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 26PR-00244

CASE NAME: In the Matter of the Giuseppe and Liboria Castiglione Family Trust

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from August 17, 2026 re: Ex Parte Petition for Order Confirming Title to Trust Assets

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

1. A copy of the shareholder agreement and articles of incorporation of GINO/GIUSEPPE, INC. have not been provided to the court and should be provided.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

(End of Tentative Rulings)