

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, January 8, 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#: 23PR-00127

CASE NAME: Estate of Waneta Cheri Gilbert

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from October 6, 2025 re: Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES IN THE PAPERS ARE 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 current case status.

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CASE#: 23PR-00449

CASE NAME: Estate of Patricia A. Canepa

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from November 14, 2025: Status of Filing of a Petition for Final Distribution/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.

CASE#: 24PR-00327

CASE NAME: Estate of Elsie Ann Canales

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from May 22, 2025 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

TENTATIVE RULING:

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

CASE#: 25PR-00045

CASE NAME: Estate of William DeGallery, Jr.

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from July 30, 2025 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 Status of Filing an Inventory and Appraisal.

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CASE#: 25PR-00329

CASE NAME: Estate of Jeffrey Michael Smith

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from October 2, 2025 re: Amended Petition for Letters of Administration with Full IAEA Authority

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES IN THE PAPERS ARE NOTED (*as to the Amended Petition filed on December 10, 2025):

1. Notice has not been provided to all heirs and the corresponding foreign consulate. Prob Code §§8100, 8113
2. No Proof of Publication with the corresponding signed affidavit. Prob Code §8121, §8124
3. Proposed Letters and Order for Probate has not been lodged. Prob Code §8006, §8400

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 24PR-00280

CASE NAME: Estate of Maria Elena Ruiz

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from May 22, 2025 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

TENTATIVE RULING:

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

CASE#: P20138

CASE NAME: Conservatorship of Maria Elena Ruiz

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from October 20, 2025 re: Status on Closing of the Estate

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

1. Distributive Receipts and an Ex Parte Petition For Final Discharge And Order (DE-295) have not been submitted. Prob Code §§2100, 11753, 12250

TENTATIVE RULING:

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

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CASE#: P22233

CASE NAME: In the Matter of the Christian Vizcarra Special Needs Trust

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from June 13, 2024 re: Accounting

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

1. An Eleventh Accounting has not been filed.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required. Counsel to advise the Court on the status of filing the Eleventh Accounting.

(End of Tentative Rulings)