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, November 19, 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#: 25PR-00193

CASE NAME: Estate of Maria Angela Greco

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:
Continued from July 29, 2026 re:

1. Petition for Approval of First and Final Accounting; Fees for Attorney; Waiver of Statutory Fees for Personal Representative; Reimbursement of Costs; and for Final Distribution
2. Status of Closing of the Estate

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

1. An Ex Parte Petition For Final Discharge And Order (DE-295) has not been submitted. Prob Code § 12250

TENTATIVE RULING:
No appearance required. The Status Review Hearing is continued to January 28, 2027 at 8:15 am to allow counsel additional time to file the appropriate Parte Petition for Final Discharge with the Court.

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CASE#: 25PR-00202

CASE NAME: Estate of Lois L. Bentley

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:
First and Final Report of Administrator and Petition for Final Distribution on Account, for Payment of Costs and Statutory Fees to Attorney and Administrator, and for Reserve

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

1. The 10/26/26 Proof of Service does not identify the document served. Clarify notice of the $174.00 reimbursement request and file a corrected proof of service or provide notice as required. Prob. Code §§ 11000, 1220

TENTATIVE RULING:
Appearance required.

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CASE#: 26PR-00080

CASE NAME: Estate of Donald M. Tallent

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:
Continued from September 2, 2026 re: Spousal Property Petition

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES IN THE PAPERS WERE NOTED *(*as to the Amended Petition filed on 9/24/26*):

1. Community property characterization. The October 28, 2026 declaration provides additional facts concerning the acquisition and financing of the property. Petitioner shall clarify the basis for the claimed community property character notwithstanding the vesting deed identifying Decedent as a married man holding title as his sole and separate property, and provide any supporting agreements or conveyances affecting characterization. Fam. Code §§ 760, 852; Prob. Code § 13651(a)(3)–(4) **Additional facts provided in the Declaration filed 10/28/26*
2. Title and recorded encumbrances. The October 28, 2026 declaration clarifies that Pat Kelly was a beneficiary under a deed of trust, not an owner of the property. The preliminary title report is dated November 7, 2025. Petitioner shall provide updated title evidence establishing the present vesting and status of the recorded encumbrances, together with copies of the vesting deed, both 1998 deeds of trust, and any recorded assignments or reconveyances, to the extent not already filed. These documents are requested as evidentiary support for the claimed property interests. Prob. Code § 13651(a)(2)–(4). **Nature of Kelly's interest clarified in the Declaration filed 10/28/26.*
3. Decedent's surviving siblings and heirs. The Petition states that Decedent was not survived by any siblings, while the October declaration states that his sister, Pat Kelly, died in September 2014. Correct or explain this discrepancy, identify Decedent's known heirs, and establish compliance with applicable notice requirements. Prob. Code §§ 13651(a)(5), 13655 **Declaration filed October 28, 2026*
4. Scope of requested relief. Clarify whether Petitioner seeks only a determination that Decedent's interest passed to her and confirmation of her own community property interest, or also relief concerning the validity or enforceability of either deed of trust. If cancellation or quiet title relief is sought, identify the affected beneficiaries or successors in interest and establish the procedural basis for the requested relief, including appropriate parties and service. Prob. Code § 13651(a)(3)–(4); CCP §§ 762.010, 763.010. **Newly noted for the 11/19/26 hrg*
5. Pat Kelly's death and successors in interest. Provide documentary proof of Pat Kelly's death. If relief affecting her beneficial interest under the deed of trust is sought, identify any appointed personal representative of her estate and any known successors to that interest, including heirs or devisees, as applicable, and establish compliance with applicable joinder and service requirements. Any request for service by publication shall be supported by the required showing of reasonable diligence and an appropriate court order. CCP §§ 762.010–762.090, 763.010, 415.50. **Newly noted for the 11/19/26 hrg*
6. Circumstances surrounding the 1998 instruments. If relief affecting either deed of trust is sought, reconcile the reference to the 1993 criminal proceedings with the execution of the instruments in August 1998. Provide available records explaining the transactions, including applicable bail, exoneration, or forfeiture orders concerning the court-related instrument. Petitioner states that the arranging attorney is deceased; identify any available corroborating records supporting the assertion that no funds were exchanged. Prob. Code § 13651(a)(3)–(4); CCP § 761.020 **Newly noted for the 11/19/26 hrg*

TENTATIVE RULING:
No appearance required. The hearing is continued to December 17, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

CASE#: 26PR-00192

CASE NAME: Estate of Gloria A. Logan

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:
Continued from June 18, 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 status of filing an Inventory and Appraisal.

CASE#: 26PR-00303

CASE NAME: Estate of Georgina Jesus Gouveia

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:
Continued from October 9, 2026 re: Petition to Determine Succession to Primary Residence

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES IN THE PAPERS WERE NOTED:
1. Additional information is needed to clarify whether 2384 and 2386 Mitchell Ave. were separate dwellings and establish that both parcels constituted the decedent's primary residence, or identify another statutory basis for including both parcels. Prob. Code §§ 13150–13151 *Declaration filed 11/4/26
2. Provide vesting deeds and orchard sale deeds to establish what property the decedent owned at death and how it relates to the petitioned parcels. If conveyed after death, identify the grantors and their authority to convey.
   Prob. Code § 13154(b)(4) **Newly noted for the 11/19/26 hearing*

TENTATIVE RULING:
Appearance required.

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CASE#: 26PR-00414

CASE NAME: Estate of Benjamin Fuentes

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 Proof of Publication with the corresponding signed affidavit.
   Prob Code §8121, §8124

TENTATIVE RULING:
No appearance required. The hearing is continued to December 21, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of deficiencies.

(End of Tentative Rulings)