

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: Wednesday, December 17, 2025
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-00344

CASE NAME: Estate of Fredrick Kern, Jr.

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from August 22, 2025 re: Status on Closing of the Estate

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

1. Distributive Receipt 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 status of closing of the estate.

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CASE#: 24PR-00020

CASE NAME: Estate of Gordon Muller

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from October 15, 2025 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. The Administrator to provide the Court with a current status on closing of the estate.

CASE#: 24PR-00139

CASE NAME: Estate of Maria Teresa Valencia

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from November 5, 2025 re:

1. Review of Settlement
2. Spousal Property Petition

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

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CASE#: 24PR-00251

CASE NAME: Geraldine Jones Prine

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Report on Waiver of Account, Petition for Allowance of Compensation to Attorneys for Ordinary Services, For Waiver of Compensation to Executors for Ordinary Services, For Allowance of Reimbursement to Attorneys for Costs Advances, For Allowance for Trustee to Pay Expenses out of the Trust Corpus, For Final Distribution and Petition to Determine Title to Real Property

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

1. Clarification needed concerning the correct APN for the Van Clief property that differs from the recorded Grant Deed (xx-xxx-01) and APN reflected in the Inventory and Appraisal (xxx-xxx-034)
2. The following documents are needed as they relate to the Probate Code §850 portion of the Petition:
 - a. Any and all Inventory and Appraisals filed in case #19064 – Estate of William M. Jones
 - b. Testamentary Will and any other related Trust documents belonging to William M. Jones
 - c. Copy of the Geraldine Jones 1990 Trust dated January 24, 1999.
3. What, if any, interest did the decedent hold in Jones Farms (fka Jones Turkey Ranch)?

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. On the Court's own motion the hearing is continued to January 26, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10. Supplemental documents to be filed with the Court by the close of business on January 9, 2026.

CASE#: 24PR-00382

CASE NAME: Estate of Melissa Marie Fries

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from April 23, 2025 re: Status ensuring Closing of the Estate

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

1. An Inventory and Appraisal has not been filed. Prob Code §8800(b) *Corrected
2. A Petition for Final Account or Status Report has not been filed.
Prob Code §12200-12201

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required. The Executor to advise the Court on the status of filing a Petition for Final Distribution.

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CASE#: 25PR-00323

CASE NAME: Estate of Dwight Reynolds, Senior

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from November 13, 2025 re: Proof of Deposit of Funds

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

1. Proof of Deposit has not been filed as ordered by the Court on 9/18/25. *Corrected – filed on 10/31/25

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Status Hearing ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal currently set for February 25, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 to be confirmed.

CASE#: 25PR-00233

CASE NAME: Estate of Dwight Anthony Reynolds

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from November 13, 2025 re: Further Proceedings

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

Case continues to trail case #25PR-00323 Estate of Dwight Reynolds, Sr The case is continued to February 25, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 to allow counsel for the Petitioner in this case to take any appropriate steps necessary to proceed in this case and in the related case.

(End of Tentative Rulings)