

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, October 22, 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#: 23PR-00269

CASE NAME: Estate of Theodore Rios

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

First and Final Waiver of Account and Report of Administrator, Petition for final Distribution and Allowance of Statutory Compensation of Attorney's Fees

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

None.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The *First and Final Waiver of Account and Report of Administrator, Petition for Final Distribution and Allowance of Statutory Compensation of Attorney's Fees*. A Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate is hereby set for March 4, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

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CASE#: 23PR-00433

CASE NAME: Estate of Janice Hatcher

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from September 12, 2025 re:

1. *3rd Amended First and Final Account Current and Report of Executor and Petition for Settlement Therof* (sic)
2. Status Hearing

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES IN THE PAPERS ARE NOTED *as to the 3rd Amended Petition filed on 9/2/25:*

1. Distributive Receipts signed by G. McGillick have not been filed.
Prob Code §11751 [*Receipt on Distribution filed 10/9/25](#)
2. Court's discretion concerning any signed documentation by K. Bachtel reflecting his declination to receive any personal items from the decedent's estate. Prob Code §11604(b) [*Receipt on Distribution filed 10/9/25](#)
3. Court's discretion concerning the transfer of the remaining estate vehicles that have not been included in any inventory and appraisal. Prob Code §8801

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 24PR-00212

CASE NAME: Estate of Lydia Ann Deen

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

1. Petition and Report on Waiver of Account and Final Settlement and for Final Distribution
2. Continued from February 19, 2025 re: Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate

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

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

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The *Petition and Report on Waiver of Account and Final Settlement and for Final Distribution* is approved. Counsel to lodge a proposed Order delineating (itemizing) all assets to be distributed to the sole heir. A Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate is hereby set for March 4, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

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CASE#: 24PR-00243

CASE NAME: Estate of Darryl Grant Crain

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES IN THE PAPERS WERE PREVIOUSLY 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#: 24PR-00263

CASE NAME: Estate of John Louie Villanueva

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from September 10, 2025 re: Status Hearing

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

1. An Inventory and Appraisal has not been filed. Prob Code §8800(b)

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required. Counsel to inform the Court the current case status.

CASE#: 25PR-00171

CASE NAME: Estate of Sarah F. Hobbs

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from May 22, 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-00243

CASE NAME:

In the Matter of the Norma B. Bacal Revocable Living Trust, dated March 30, 2019

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from August 20, 2025 re: Trial Setting Conference

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

1. *Objection to the Petition to Compel Actions by Trustee; and To Remove Trustee* was filed on August 15, 2025

TENTATIVE RULING:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 25PR-00298

CASE NAME: Estate of Consuelo S. Vojta

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from September 12, 2025 re: Petition for Probate of Letters Testamentary

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

1. Petition is missing Attachment 3f(2) – copy of the decedent's will.
Prob Code §8002(b)(1) **Corrected*
2. Petitioner is not a named Executor in the decedent's will but is Petitioning to be appointed as Administrator with Will Annexed. The decedent's will does not specifically waive bond for any other parties other than the named Executors. Bond is required unless all beneficiaries waive bond. Prob Code §8481(a)(2), CRC 7.202 **Corrected*
3. Proposed Letters should reflect the Petitioner as the Administrator with Will Annexed (#1b).
**Corrected*
4. Proposed Order for Probate requires the following interlineation: **Corrected*
 - a. Decedent was a resident of the California county named above – item #2b(1)
 - b. Should reflect the Petitioner as the Administrator with Will Annexed in item #3b.
 - c. Issue of bond remains at the Court's discretion.
5. No Notice of the Amended Petition to heirs, beneficiaries & executors.
Prob Code §8110, CRC 7.53 **Corrected*

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Amended Petition for Letters Testamentary with Full IAEA Authority is granted with a \$330,000.00 bond to be posted. Letters to issue upon posting of the appropriate bond. The decedent's will is admitted into Probate. Probate Referee Michael Wright is appointed. A Status Hearing ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal is hereby set for March 25, 2026 at 8:15 am in Courtroom 10.

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CASE#: 25PR-00337

CASE NAME:

In re The Sohan Singh Sahota and Bhupinder Kaur Sahota Revocable Trust

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Petition to Compel Trustee to Report Information Related to the Administration of the Trust
Relevant to Beneficiaries' Interests

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

Under review.

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The Petition remains under review and on the Court's own Motion the hearing is continued to January 7, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10. The Court also on its own Motion also sets case #18PR-00286 Estate of Sohan Singh Sahota for a Status Hearing on January 7, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

CASE#: 25PR-00366

CASE NAME: Estate of James Brooks Griffin

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from October 13, 2025 re: Petition for Probate of Will and For Letters of Testamentary with Full IAEA Authority

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

1. Will has not been lodged with the Court. Prob Code §8200 **Corrected*

TENTATIVE RULING:

No appearance required. The *Petition for Letters Testamentary* with full IAEA Authority with no bond required is granted. The Decedent's will is admitted into Probate. Probate Referee Michael Wright is appointed. A Status Hearing ensuring the filing of an Inventory and Appraisal is hereby set for April 22, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

(End of Tentative Rulings)