

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 notify that documents have been filed, 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 or status of orders 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

**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
Los Banos Division
HONORABLE: Ashley Albertoni Sausser

DATE: Thursday, October 16, 2025
TIME: 8:30 AM
Courtroom 13

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 NAME: Estate of Margaret L. Sliger

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from September 17, 2025 for Status of Filing a Petition for Final Distribution.

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

1. No Petition for Final Distribution or Status Report filed with the Court. Probate Code §12200.
2. Clarification regarding how the Stipulation and Order Approving Receiver's Final Report And Accounting, Approving Distribution Of Funds, And Discharging Receiver, filed on October 11, 2024, in IRMO Margaret L. Sliger v. Robert Sliger, Merced Superior Court Case No. 17FL02388, is not the final distribution of marital property between Decedent and Robert Sliger.
3. Clarification regarding what marital properties, if any, are still to be distributed in Merced Superior Court Case No. 17FL02388 and what efforts have been made by Executor, Melissa C. Carma, as Trustee of the Margaret L. Sliger 2022 Revocable Trust, on behalf of Petitioner Margaret L. Sliger in said case, to resolve any marital property issues since October 11, 2024.

PROBATE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 24PR-00161

CASE NAME: Estate of Carmen Araiza Lopez

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:

1. Clarification of Petition where it states that "[t]here are no unusual account expenditures" - when a Creditor's Claim of \$5,731.73 was paid by the Estate, having no cash assets. Probate Code §1064; (See Petition for Final Distribution filed on 9/22/2025 ("Petition"), page 3, paragraphs 16 and 18.)
2. Estate is not in a condition to be closed as the debt of the attorney's statutory compensation has not been adequately provided for. Probate Code §11640.
3. Estate has no cash on hand for the personal representative to pay his attorney out of the estate, the amount she is requesting in the Petition. Prob Code §10831(d).
4. No proposed Order for distribution submitted to the Court. Prob Code §11600.

PROBATE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 25PR-00319

CASE NAME: Estate of Sharon K Diss Stevenson

THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:

Continued from September 2, 2025 for Petition For Probate of Lost Will and for Letters Testamentary *and* for Letters of Administration

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

1. Two different Petitions for Probate erroneously filed on one form. Probate Code §§8002; 8540; CA Rules of Court, Rule 7.102.
2. No request for IAEA Authority in caption of Petition. CA Rules of Court, Rule 7.102.
3. The Petition is missing an attached copy of the Will. Probate Code §8002(b)(1); (See Attachment 3.f.(2) of Petition, that appears to be pictures of a legal document drafting App on an open tab of a laptop computer.)
4. No waivers of bond by any beneficiaries as indicated in the Petition. Probate Code §§8480; 8481; (See para. 3.(e)(2) of Petition filed August 4, 2025.)

5. Court's discretion to require bond for nonresident petitioner. Probate Code §8571.
6. The Proof of Service of Notice of Petition to Administer Estate mailed and filed on August 21, 2025 fails to notify recipients the petitioners are requesting authority under the IAEA. Probate Code §8110. (See paragraph 5 of Notice filed August 4, 2025.)
7. No Proof of Publication of Notice to Administrator Estate with an Affidavit. Probate Code §§8120, 8121, 8124 (See Document filed August 21, 2025 that appears to be an incomplete copy of an *Invoice* for publication – not a signed Affidavit by a newspaper employee with an attached newspaper clipping.)
8. The "Will" attached to the Petition as "Attachment 3.f.(2)" is not a writing. Probate Code §6610(a).
9. The "Will" attached to the Petition as "Attachment 3.f.(2)" is not signed by the testator/Decedent. Probate Code §6610(b)(1).
10. The "Will" attached to the Petition as "Attachment 3.f.(2)" is not witnessed by anyone. Probate Code §6110 (c)(1).
11. The Petition states the Will has been lost. (See para. f.(3)). However, there are no reasons stated why it is not presumed Decedent intended to revoke the Will. Probate Code §6124.
12. The photograph of the Will attached to the Petition that is not signed by the testator and witnesses is not a "duplicate original." Probate Code §6124; *Lauermann v. Sup.Ct. (Muongpruan)* (2005) 127 CA4th 1327, 1333, 26 CR3d 258, 262.
13. The "Sharon Kay Diss Stevenson Revocable Living Trust" in Attachment 3.f.(2) is not signed by the trustee. Probate Code §15206(a).
14. No Duties & Liabilities Acknowledgment (Form DE-147) filed with the Court by either petitioner. Probate Code §8404(a).
15. No Confidential Statement of Birthdate and Driver's License Number (Form DE-147S) filed by either petitioner. Probate Code §8404(b).
16. No Proposed Order for Probate. Probate Code §§8006; 8400.
17. No proposed Letters submitted to the Court. Probate Code §§8006; 8400.

PROBATE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Appearance required.

CASE#: 25PR-00382

CASE NAME: Estate of Primus Jackson Johnson, III, aka Primus J. Johnson, III, aka Primus Johnson, III

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 filed with the Court. Probate Code § 8120
2. No proposed Order for Probate submitted to the Court. Probate Code § 8400

3. No Letters lodged with the Court. Probate Code § 8400

PROBATE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Appearance required.

(End of Probate Notes)