

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](mailto: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

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DATE: Friday, February 28, 2025  
TIME: 8:15 AM and 8:30 AM  
Courtroom 10  
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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.**

**8:15 AM CALENDAR**

**CASE#:** 23PR-00375

**CASE NAME:** In the Matter of the Genaro Ortuno Oregon Minor's Settlement Trust

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Order to Show Cause RE: Filing of the Second Accounting

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

1. A Second Accounting has not been filed as ordered by the Court on September 6, 2024.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

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**CASE#:** 24PR-00061

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Jeanne Elizabeth Wimbley

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from December 9, 2024 re: Status on Filing of an Inventory and Appraisal

**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) *\*Corrected – filed 2/20/25*

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

No appearance required. An Inventory and Appraisal was filed on February 20, 2025. A Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate to be set for July 2, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

**CASE#:** 24PR-00335

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Deborah Joyce Collins

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from January 9, 2025 re: Petition for Letters of Administration with Full IAEA Authority

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

1. No Proof of Publication with the corresponding signed affidavit.  
Prob Code §8121, §8124
  - Publication filed 12/30/24 is improper as it reflects notice of the previous December 6, 2024 hearing date but reflects publication effectuated on December 12, 2024, December 19, 2024 and December 26, 2024.
  - *Re-Publication filed on 1/31/25 is improper as it does not reflect the Petitioners' request for IAEA powers sought. Prob Code §10451(c)*
2. Duties & Liabilities Acknowledgment signed by each personal representative has not been filed. Prob Code §8404(a) *\*Corrected*
3. Proposed Letters and Order for Probate has not been submitted.  
Prob Code §8006, §8400 *\*Lodged on 1/2/25 – proposed Letters and Order for Probate only reflect Co-Petitioner Joseph Alan White and are missing the name of Co-Petitioner James David Buel \*Corrected – lodged 1/9/25*

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

The hearing is continued to April 9, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for republication that includes the appropriate verbiage for the IAEA Authority sought by the Petitioners.

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**CASE#:** PR000465

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Larry Dale Souza, Jr.

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from December 9, 2024 re: Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate

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

1. An Ex Parte Petition For Final Discharge And Order (DE-295) has not been submitted.  
Prob Code §§11753, 12250

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required. Counsel to provide the Court with a status of filing an Ex Parte Petition for Final Discharge.

**8:30 AM CALENDAR**

**CASE#:** 19PR-00191

**CASE NAME:** Conservatorship of Lily McDow

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from January 10, 2024 re: Corrected Third Amended Third and Final Report of Conservator of the Estate, and to the Attorney and for Termination of Conservatorship and Discharge of Conservator

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

1. No documentation has been filed reflecting the current title/transfer status of the estate's real property has been filed as directed by the Court on 1/10/25.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

**CASE#:** 22PR-00236

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Lily McDow

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from January 10, 2025 re: Trailing #19PR-00191 Consv. of Lily McDow

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

None.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Case is trailing #19PR-00191 Conservatorship of Lily McDow.

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**CASE#:** 23PR-00024

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Joe L. Manzanedo

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from December 20, 2024 re: Status of Possible Successor Administrators or Referral to the Merced County Public Administrator's Office

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

1. A Petition for Administration by the Interim Successor Administrator has not been filed as directed by the Court at the January 27, 2025 hearing.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

**CASE#:** 24PR-00093

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Angelo Espinola Picanco

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from January 3, 2025 re: Status on Filing of Inventory and Appraisal

**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 filing of an Inventory and Appraisal.

**CASE#:** 24PR-00119

**CASE NAME:** In the Matter of Isai Banuelos

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from February 3, 2025 re:

1. Status Review Hearing
2. Order to Show Cause for Failing to Appear

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

1. Acknowledgment of receipt of funds deposited in a blocked account at a financial institution has not been filed. CRC 7.953(a)

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

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**CASE#:** 24PR-00470

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Steven Griffin

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from January 29, 2025 re: Status Hearing

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

1. Objection filed by V. Bettencourt on January 24, 2025.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

**CASE#:** 25PR-00030

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Steven Lewis Griffin (\*competing Petition)

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from February 27, 2025 re: Petition for Letters of Administration with Full IAEA Authority

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

1. Bond has not been waived by all beneficiaries. Prob Code §8481
2. No Notice to Duane Brenner Davidson. Prob Code §8100, §8110
3. No Proof of Publication with the corresponding signed affidavit.  
Prob Code §8121, §8124

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

**CASE#:** 23PR-00464

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Jaclyn L. Sears

**THIS CASE IS SET FOR HEARING ON:**

Continued from February 21, 2025 re: Status Hearing

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

(End of Tentative Rulings)