

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. Updates to the Probate Examiner's Notes typically will be posted 3 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 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.

Superior Court of California, County of Merced  
PROBATE CALENDAR  
HONORABLE: James LaPorte

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DATE: Monday, July 1, 2024  
TIME: 8:15 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.**

**CASE#:** 15PR-00112

**CASE NAME:** Conservatorship of Lydia Deen

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

Continued from May 1, 2024 re: Status on Closing of the Estate

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

None.

**PROBATE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

The hearing to be dropped from calendar. The hearing in the related probate case #24PR-00212 Estate of Lydia Deen currently set for August 16, 2024 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 to be confirmed.

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**CASE#:** 23PR-00069

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Phil Brasil

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

Petition for Final Distribution on Waiver of Account

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

None.

**PROBATE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend to approve the Petition for Final Distribution on Waiver of Account. A Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate to be set for August 29, 2024 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

**CASE#:** 23PR-00287

**CASE NAME:** Estate of James M. O'Rear

**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 for Reserve

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

None.

**PROBATE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend to approve the First and Final Report of Administrator and Petition for Final Distribution on Account, for Payment of Costs and Statutory Fees to Attorney, and for Reserve. A Status Hearing ensuring the closing of the estate to be set for September 9, 2024 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

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**CASE#:** 24PR-00140

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Betty Varnell Thompson

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

Petition for Letters of Testamentary with Full IAEA Authority

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

None.

**PROBATE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend to grant the Petition for Letters of Testamentary with Full IAEA Authority. The decedent's will to be admitted into Probate. A Status Hearing ensuring the closing of the estate to be set for August 4, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

**CASE#:** 24PR-00141

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Bonnie Bauer

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

Petition for Letters of Testamentary with Full IAEA

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

None.

**PROBATE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend to grant the Petition for Letters of Testamentary with Full IAEA Authority. The decedent's will to be admitted into Probate. A Status Hearing filing of an Inventory and Appraisal to be set for January 8, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

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**CASE#:** 24PR-00146

**CASE NAME:** In the Matter of the Donald Curtaz 2021 Living Trust

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

Petition for Order Transferring Property to Trust

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

None.

**PROBATE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommen to grant the Petition for Order Transferring Property to Trust.

**CASE#:** 24PR-00149

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Manuel Jimenez

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

Petition for Letters of Testamentary 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

**PROBATE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

The hearing be continued to September 4, 2024 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of deficiencies.

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**CASE#:** P23645

**CASE NAME:** Conservatorship of Virginia Santos Rojas

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

Continued from May 1, 2024 re:

1. Status/Closing/Distribution of the Estate
2. Request for Order to Distribute Conservatorship Funds, For Release of Surety on its Bond, For Discharge of Conservator and For Attorney Fees

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

1. Small Estate Affidavits for each heir and corresponding receipts have not been filed.

**PROBATE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Appearance required.

(End of Tentative Rulings)