

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

*\*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: Wednesday, February 5, 2025  
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#:** 22PR-00302

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Carmelita Branco

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

Continued from October 30, 2024 re: Status Hearing and Order to Show Cause Re: Sanctions for Failure to Appear

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

1. A Petition for Termination of Proceedings or Status Report has not been filed.  
Prob Code §§12200-12201, 12251

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

(continued on next page)

**CASE#:** 22PR-00310

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Scott Clifford Gibson

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

1. Continued from October 30, 2024 re: Status Hearing
2. Administrator's Final Report and Petition for Order Approving Administrator's Actions, Declaring Funds Received Upon Repossession and Auction of Motor Vehicle to Be An Asset of the Estate; Allowing Rejections of Creditors' Claims. Approving Reimbursement to Administrator for Costs of Estate Administration, Directing Payment of Final Compensation to Attorney, Exonerating and Discharging Administrator, and Settling the Estate

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

None.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Absent any Objection, the Court's intention is to approve the *Administrator's Final Report and Petition for Order Approving Administrator's Actions, Declaring Funds Received Upon Repossession and Auction of Motor Vehicle to Be An Asset of the Estate; Allowing Rejections of Creditors' Claims. Approving Reimbursement to Administrator for Costs of Estate Administration, Directing Payment of Final Compensation to Attorney, Exonerating and Discharging Administrator, and Settling the Estate*. Counsel to submit a proposed Order. A Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate is hereby set for May 14, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

**CASE#:** 23PR-00229

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Hide M. Mrozek

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

Continued from October 14, 2024 re: Status Hearing on Closing of the Estate

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

None.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

No appearance required. A Status Report was filed by counsel on January 14, 2025. The Status Hearing is hereby continued to June 5, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for a further Status on Closing of the Estate.

(continued on next page)

**CASE#:** 24PR-00024

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Norwood Norton Strange, Jr.

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

Petition for Settlement of First and Final Account with Waivers, Final Distribution, Allowance of Compensation for Ordinary Services to Administrator, and Allowance of Compensation for Ordinary Services to Attorney

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

1. What is the final disposition of the estate's real property and 2016 GMC pickup?
2. Petition does not reflect any actions taken without court approval under the Independent Administration of Estates Act (IAEA). CRC 7.250(a)
3. Notice with the attached Proof of Service is unsigned by the party who effectuated service.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

The hearing is continued to March 17, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10 for correction of deficiencies.

**CASE#:** 24PR-00159

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Patricia Ellis

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

Continued from July 17, 2024 re: Status of Filing an Inventory and Appraisal

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

None.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

No appearance required. An Inventory and Appraisal was filed on November 27, 2024. A Status Hearing ensuring the Closing of the Estate is hereby set for September 15, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. in Courtroom 10.

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**CASE#:** 24PR-00202

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Robert Adolph Ornelas

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

Continued from August 7, 2024 re: Status of Filing an Inventory and Appraisal

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

None.

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

No appearance required. Inventory and Appraisals have been filed in compliance with Probate Code §8800(b). The hearing on the *First and Final Report of Executor on Waiver of Account and Petition for Final Distribution, and For Allowance of Compensation to Attorneys for Ordinary and Extraordinary Services* currently set for April 16, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. to be confirmed.

**CASE#:** 24PR-00232

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Ruben Escalante

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

Second Amended Petition for Letters of Special Administration with Full IAEA Authority

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

1. Petition is not signed and verified by Co-Petitioner Gracie Gonzales.  
CCP §§128.7, 2015.5, Prob Code §1021(a)(1)
2. The Petition provides an estate of the decedent's estate as consisting solely of personal property and does not include any estimate for any real property belonging to the decedent.
3. Petition does not include the following previously identified parties:
  - a. Decedent's spouse Vicky Lynn Escalante
  - b. Adult children of the decedent: Ruben Escalante, Jr. and Sandra Rodriguez.
  - c. Adult sibling Hermalinda Vasquez  
Prob Code §8802(a)(3)
4. No Notice to all heirs (decedent's spouse, children and adult sibling Hermalinda Vasquez). Prob Code §8100, §8110
5. Improper Notice provided to the decedent's mother and siblings identified in the Second Amended Petition as it was effectuated by the Petitioner F. Estela Escalante who is a party to the action. CCP §1013a.
6. Duties & Liabilities Acknowledgment signed by each personal representative have not been filed. Prob Code §8404(a)
7. No Proof of Publication with the corresponding signed affidavit.  
Prob Code §8121, §8124
8. Bond has not been waived by all heirs. Prob Code §8481

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

**CASE#:** 24PR-00442

**CASE NAME:** Estate of Sandy E. Cron aka Fannie E. Cron

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

Petition to Determine Succession to Real Property

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

1. Additional information needed concerning any pending Petition for the Estate of Richard Cron. Did Richard Cron die testate? Intestate? Who is the estate representative for Richard Cron as each Petitioner must join by signature and verification in the use of the Petition to Determine Succession to Real Property. Prob Code 13152

**TENTATIVE RULING:**

Appearance required.

(End of Tentative Rulings)