

February 3, 2025  
Dept. 9  
Probate Tentative Rulings

<b>1.</b>	<b>PP20190252</b>	<b>CONSERVATORSHIP OF PLAUGHER</b>
<b>Review Hearing</b>		

Due to perceived clerical error, case was set on the 8:30 AM probate calendar. However, due to the involvement of the Public Defender's office and because it involves conservatorship, the case should have been set for the 10:00 am calendar.

**TENTATIVE RULING #1:**

**APPEARANCES ARE REQUIRED AT 10:00 A.M. ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025, IN DEPARTMENT NINE.**

**IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR BY ZOOM, PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (530) 621-5867 AND MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.**

February 3, 2025  
Dept. 9  
Probate Tentative Rulings

<b>2.</b>	<b>PP20190237</b>	<b>CONSERVATORSHIP OF SELLERS</b>
<b>Review Hearing</b>		

Due to perceived clerical error, case was set on the 8:30 AM probate calendar. However, due to the involvement of the Public Defender's office and because it involves conservatorship, the case should have been set for the 10:00 am calendar.

**TENTATIVE RULING #2:**

**APPEARANCES ARE REQUIRED AT 10:00 A.M. ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025, IN DEPARTMENT NINE.**

**IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR BY ZOOM, PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (530) 621-5867 AND MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.**

February 3, 2025  
Dept. 9  
Probate Tentative Rulings

<b>3.</b>	<b>23PR0294</b>	<b>ESTATE OF FOTH</b>
<b>Status</b>		

**TENTATIVE RULING #3:**

**AN ORDER FOR FINAL DISTRIBUTION HAVING BEEN ENTERED BY THE COURT ON DECEMBER 2, 2024, THE MATTER IS CONTINUED TO 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025, IN DEPARTMENT NINE, BY WHICH TIME THE COURT EXPECTS RECEIPTS AND AN EX PARTE PETITION FOR FINAL DISCHARGE (JUDICIAL COUNCIL FORM DE-295) TO BE FILED WITH THE COURT.**

**IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR BY ZOOM, PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (530) 621-5867 AND MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.**

February 3, 2025  
Dept. 9  
Probate Tentative Rulings

<b>4.</b>	<b>23PR0290</b>	<b>ESTATE OF MATTHEWS</b>
<b>Status</b>		

**TENTATIVE RULING #4:**

**AN ORDER FOR FINAL DISCHARGE HAVING BEEN ENTERED BY THE COURT ON DECEMBER 6, 2024, THE MATTER IS DROPPED FROM CALENDAR.**

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February 3, 2025  
Dept. 9  
Probate Tentative Rulings

<b>5.</b>	<b>22PR0231</b>	<b>ESTATE OF HEIER</b>
<b>Status</b>		

The Court received a Report on Status of Administration from the Administrator, filed on January 27, 2025. One of the beneficiaries has passed away intestate, as a resident of South Dakota. Probate will need to be opened for that beneficiary's estate. Counsel requests the review hearing be continued one year.

**TENTATIVE RULING #5:**

**A STATUS OF ADMINISTRATION HEARING IS SET FOR 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026, IN DEPARTMENT NINE.**

**IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR BY ZOOM, PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (530) 621-5867 AND MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.**

February 3, 2025  
Dept. 9  
Probate Tentative Rulings

<b>6.</b>	<b>23PR0301</b>	<b>ESTATE OF TRUJILLO</b>
<b>Status</b>		

**TENTATIVE RULING #6:**

**AN ORDER FOR FINAL DISTRIBUTION HAVING BEEN ENTERED BY THE COURT ON DECEMBER 2, 2024, THE MATTER IS CONTINUED TO 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025, IN DEPARTMENT NINE, BY WHICH TIME THE COURT EXPECTS RECEIPTS AND AN EX PARTE PETITION FOR FINAL DISCHARGE (JUDICIAL COUNCIL FORM DE-295) TO BE FILED WITH THE COURT.**

**IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR BY ZOOM, PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (530) 621-5867 AND MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.**

February 3, 2025  
Dept. 9  
Probate Tentative Rulings

<b>7.</b>	<b>22PR0204</b>	<b>ESTATE OF CROWE</b>
<b>Status</b>		

**TENTATIVE RULING #7:**

**AN ORDER FOR FINAL DISCHARGE HAVING BEEN ENTERED BY THE COURT ON AUGUST 21, 2024, THE MATTER IS DROPPED FROM CALENDAR.**

**IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR BY ZOOM, PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (530) 621-5867 AND MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.**

February 3, 2025  
Dept. 9  
Probate Tentative Rulings

<b>8.</b>	<b>23PR0264</b>	<b>ESTATE OF GREGORY</b>
<b>Status</b>		

Letters Testamentary were issued on January 25, 2024.

A Final Inventory and Appraisal was filed on March 26, 2024.

There is no Petition for Final Distribution on file with the court.

**TENTATIVE RULING #8:**

**APPEARANCES ARE REQUIRED AT 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025, IN DEPARTMENT NINE.**

**A STATUS OF ADMINISTRATION HEARING IS SET FOR 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026, IN DEPARTMENT NINE.**

**IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR BY ZOOM, PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (530) 621-5867 AND MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.**



9.	24PR0067	ESTATE OF RIGOPOULOS
Final Distribution		

Letters of Administration were issued on May 13, 2024, granting Petitioner full authority under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. A Final Inventory and Appraisal was filed on November 18, 2024. Waiver of Account was executed by the sole heir entitled to distributions under the estate. Proof of Service of Notice of the hearing on the Petition was filed on December 19, 2024. No one has filed a request for special notice in this proceeding.

The proposed distribution of the estate includes full distribution to decedent's surviving spouse, Nancy Rigopoulos (Petitioner). The Petition complies with Local Rule 10.07.12.

The Petition requests:

1. The administration of the estate be brought to a close without the requirement of an accounting;
2. All acts and proceedings of the Administrator be confirmed and approved;
3. The Administrator be authorized to pay statutory attorney fees in the amount of \$38,600;
4. Approval of distribution of the estate to the persons entitled to it pursuant to the Petition for Final Distribution;
5. Distribution of the estate in Petitioner's hands and any other property of the estate not now known or later discovered be distributed to the beneficiaries as set forth in the Petition.

**TENTATIVE RULING #9:**

**ABSENT OBJECTION THE PETITION IS GRANTED AS REQUESTED. ANY PERSON WHO HAS AN OBJECTION MAY MAKE IT ANY TIME, EVEN ORALLY AT THE HEARING (PROBATE CODE § 1043)**

**AN ORDER FOR FINAL DISTRIBUTION HAVING BEEN ENTERED BY THE COURT ON FEBRUARY 3, 2025, THE MATTER IS CONTINUED TO 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025, IN DEPARTMENT NINE, BY WHICH TIME THE COURT EXPECTS RECEIPTS AND AN EX PARTE PETITION FOR FINAL DISCHARGE (JUDICIAL COUNCIL FORM DE-295) TO BE FILED WITH THE COURT.**

**IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR BY ZOOM, PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (530) 621-5867 AND MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.**

February 3, 2025  
Dept. 9  
Probate Tentative Rulings

<b>10.</b>	<b>22PR0189</b>	<b>ESTATE OF MARSHALL</b>
<b>Status</b>		

**TENTATIVE RULING #10:**

**AN ORDER FOR FINAL DISCHARGE HAVING BEEN ENTERED BY THE COURT ON JANUARY 29, 2025, THE MATTER IS DROPPED FROM CALENDAR.**

**IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR BY ZOOM, PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (530) 621-5867 AND MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.**

February 3, 2025  
Dept. 9  
Probate Tentative Rulings

<b>11.</b>	<b>23PR0037</b>	<b>ESTATE OF BUCKLEY</b>
<b>Final Distribution</b>		

The Petition for Final Distribution was approved at the October 28, 2024, hearing. Although there was no Order prepared for the Court, the proposed actions of the Administrator as outlined in the Petition Final Distribution were authorized. The beneficiaries filed receipts of distribution on December 11, 2024, which appear to be consistent with the Petition.

There is no Ex-Parte Petition for Final Discharge (Judicial Council Form DE-295).

**TENTATIVE RULING #11:**

**APPEARANCES ARE REQUIRED AT 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025, IN DEPARTMENT NINE.**

**THE CASE IS SET FOR TWO FUTURE REVIEW HEARINGS – MAY 19, 2025, AND OCTOBER 27, 2025. THESE CASES ARE DROPPED FROM CALENDAR.**

**IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR BY ZOOM, PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (530) 621-5867 AND MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.**

February 3, 2025  
Dept. 9  
Probate Tentative Rulings

<b>12.</b>	<b>24PR0332</b>	<b>GEORGE FAMILY TRUST</b>
<b>Petition</b>		

William and Lillian George (“William” and “Lillian” collectively “settlers”) established the George Family Trust of 1994 (“Trust”), which was executed on May 16, 1994. At the time of execution, the settlers had two adult children, Naomi Brizendine and LeRoy George. After the settlers, Naomi was named as the first successor trustee (“Trustee”) and LeRoy was named as the alternate. William George died on January 27, 2015, and Lillian George died on November 8, 2023.

Petitioner LeRoy George (“Petitioner”) brings this Petition for Removal of Trustee, for Accounting, for Recovery of Trust Assets and *Heggstad* Petition to Reinstate Real Property into the Trust. Petitioner first mentions the deed executed by Lillian, transferring the real property held in Trust to Petitioner and Trustee. The deed indicates Lillian was sole Trustee and the letter from attorney Klotz who prepared the deeds, notes that William was not able to continue serving as co-trustee based on a doctor’s note. Based on Petitioner’s declaration that his father was in assisted living at the time the deed was executed, it is likely that William’s health had deteriorated. Whether the real property was transferred to the Petitioner and Trustee in 2013, or remained in the Trust, the outcome is the same – Petitioner and Trustee are equal owners. Since the outcome does not change, the Court will not address the arguments of undue influence.

Petitioner next states that the balance sheet showing Trustee has received \$45,974.00 in pre-inheritance payments and Petitioner has received \$156,334.00. It seems Petitioner is unhappy with the allegation that he received more pre-inheritance money and that Trustee is reducing his subsequent distribution. While the pre-inheritance balance sheet was not mentioned in the 1994 Trust, the Court finds that the intention of the settlers was for their children to share in the estate equally. Further, section 5.16 of the Trust specifically addresses loans to beneficiaries. While it does not reference a balance sheet, the pre-inheritance money can be considered a loan. Absent evidence that Petitioner did not actually receive \$156,334.00, it seems reasonable to adjust his distribution by that amount, and likewise with Trustee’s \$45,974.00 pre-inheritance distributions.

Petitioner alleges that Lillian purportedly took these actions without William’s knowledge, and at the direction of Trustee. However, as noted above, the evidence on hand seems to indicate that Lillian was serving as sole Trustee at the time of these actions.

Petitioner alleges that he did not receive an accounting by Trustee at the time of Lillian’s death. Petitioner further notes that Trustee sent a probate report to Petitioner. Exhibit G. It appears to the Court that Exhibit G does in fact contain an accounting, but that the values are as of January 1, 2024 and not starting at the date of death of November 8, 2023.

February 3, 2025  
Dept. 9  
Probate Tentative Rulings

Petitioner notes that Trustee filed an Action for Partition and for an Accounting, assigned case number 24CV1743.

**TENTATIVE RULING #12:**

- 1. REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF TRUSTEE IS DENIED.**
- 2. DEMAND FOR ACCOUNTING IS GRANTED, FOR THE PERIODS NOT PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED.**
- 3. REQUEST FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES IS DENIED.**
- 4. REQUEST TO TRANSFER THE REAL PROPERTY BACK IN TO THE TRUST IS DENIED.**
- 5. THE COURT ALREADY HAS JURISDICTION OF CASE 24CV1743. HOWEVER, THE COURT HEREBY MOVES TO CONSOLIDATE CASES 24PR0332 AND 24CV1743, ABSENT OBJECTION FROM THE PARTIES. THE MASTER CASE WILL BE 24CV1743.**

**ANY PERSON WHO HAS AN OBJECTION MAY MAKE IT ANY TIME, EVEN ORALLY AT THE HEARING (PROBATE CODE § 1043).**

**IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR BY ZOOM, PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (530) 621-5867 AND MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.**