

June 12, 2026, Probate Tentative Rulings

- 1. P14-15643 In the Matter of Christopher Joshua Howie**
No appearances are required. The petition for termination of the conservatorship of the estate, waiver of final accounting, and petition for allowance of attorney fees is granted as prayed. A proposed order has been submitted.
- 2. PR0000188 In the Matter of Todd Alan Goodin**
No appearances are required. The Court is in receipt of the notice of death of the Conservatee. On its own motion, the Court continues this matter to September 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., in Department 6. Conservator is directed to file and serve a final accounting prior to the continued court date.
- 3. PR0000193 In the Matter of Johnathan Pattee**
Appearances are required. The parties shall be prepared to update the Court on the status of this conservatorship and the placement of Conservatee.
- 4. PR0000360 In the Matter of Spencer Logan Edward Morris**
No appearances are required. The Court continues this matter to September 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., in Department 6. Guardians have not properly noticed the March 24, 2026, accounting for hearing. Guardians shall properly notice the motion and provide proof of service of notice prior to the continued court date.
- 5. PR0000497 In the Matter of Timothy Jordan**
No appearances are required. The petition for final distribution is granted as prayed. A proposed order has been submitted.
- 6. PR0000659 In the Matter of Ian Fredrick Ayton**
No appearances are required. The petition for attorney fees filed by Counsel Keene is granted as prayed. Counsel shall submit a proposed order.
- 7. PR0000871 In the Matter of Billie Dean Nasca Muir**
Appearances are required. Lucia Muir shall show cause why this matter should not be dismissed and/or sanctions issued for her failure to file proof of publication and proof of service of the notice to administer as ordered by this Court on October 17, 2025.
- 8. PR0000957 In the Matter of Irene Jenkins**
Appearances are required in connection with the petition to appoint a conservator of the person and estate. No final report has been received from counsel for the Conservatee as previously requested. If there is no objection, the Court is inclined to grant the petition for conservatorship of the person and estate as follows: Laura Brownell is appointed as Conservator. Bond is set at \$500,000.00. Letters shall issue once proof of bond is provided to the Court. Conservator shall file an inventory and appraisal within 90 days. The Court investigation fee is waived. The Court sets the following future dates in Department 6:

Review Hearing regarding Inventory and Appraisal: September 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
Annual Review: June 11, 2027, at 9:00 a.m.
Accounting: June 11, 2027, at 9:00 a.m.

9. PR0001023 In the Matter of Joceyline Rose Guerrero

Appearances are required. The Court is favorably inclined to grant the petition for expedited approval of compromise of minor's claim.

10. PR0001025 In the Matter of Mark Sealander

No appearances are required. The request of Petitioner Mark Sealander for a preliminary injunction to enjoin the sale of real property is denied.

Petitioner seeks a preliminary injunction to prevent Respondent Martha Sealander from selling the residence located at 136 Orchard Street, Nevada City. This asset is a trust asset held by the Sealander Family Living Trust.

“The granting or denial of a preliminary injunction does not amount to an adjudication of the ultimate rights in controversy. It merely determines that the court, balancing the respective equities of the parties, concludes that, pending a trial on the merits, the defendant should or that he should not be restrained from exercising the right claimed by him.” *Continental Baking Co. v. Katz* (1968) 68 Cal.2d 512, 528. A preliminary injunction must not issue, “unless it is reasonably probable that the moving party will prevail on the merits.” *San Francisco Newspaper Printing Co., Inc. v. Supt. Ct.* (1985) 170 Cal. App. 3d 438, 442.

At bar, “Petitioner, according to his knowledge and belief, asserts that [Respondent/Co-Trustee] Melinda [Sealander] is unduly influencing [Respondent/Settlor/Co-Trustee] Martha [Sealander], who lacks capacity to make estate planning documents, to sell the Orchard Property, which will benefit Melinda and eliminate Petitioner's beneficial share of the Trust.” 4/6/26 Pet. Br. 5:12-14. The Court is not persuaded.

The Court has reviewed the record as a whole including evidence submitted by Petitioner and Respondents. On the record presented, there is no reasonable probability Petitioner will prevail on the merits of his claims, including his claim that Martha Sealander lacked or lacks capacity to make estate planning documents or his claim that Melinda Sealander has unduly influenced Martha Sealander. In addition, Martha Sealander is alive, the trust remains revocable and Petitioner's interest has yet to vest. Petitioner, thus, has the right to dispose of trust assets as she wishes including the right to sell the property at issue. *See Babbitt v. Superior Court* (2016) 246 Cal. App. 4th 1135, 1145 (Ordinarily, “[b]ecause assets held in a revocable trust essentially belong to the settlor, the settlor may dispose of the trust's assets and effectively eliminate the beneficiaries' interest altogether ‘with no need to justify or explain’ his or her actions.”) The preliminary injunction is denied and the temporary restraining order is dissolved.

Turning to the remaining issues in the Petitioner's April 6, 2026, Petition, the Court is favorably inclined to order the parties to attend mediation, with costs of the same to be

paid by the trust, pursuant to Probate Code section 17206 and *Breslin v. Breslin* (2021) 62 Cal. App.5th 801, 806 (“The probate court has the power to order the parties into mediation.”). The parties are hereby advised:

Mediation may result in a settlement of the matters that are the subject of this case and of any and all interested persons and parties interests therein. Settlement of the matter may result in an agreement for the distribution of assets of the above-referenced trust and of the estates of the settlors therein, however those assets may be held. Settlement of the matter may also result in an award of attorneys’ fees to one or more parties under *Smith v. Szeyller* (2019) 31 Cal.App.5th 450, 242. Interested persons or parties who do not have counsel may attend the mediation and participate.

Non-participating persons or parties who receive notice of the date, time and place of the mediation may be bound by the terms of any agreement reached at mediation without further action by the Court or further hearing. Rights of trust beneficiaries or prospective beneficiaries may be lost or forfeited by the failure to participate in mediation. Participation in mediation is a prerequisite to an evidentiary hearing. By failing to participate in mediation, a person or party will waive their right to an evidentiary hearing.

Petitioner and Respondents shall meet and confer regarding selection of a mutually acceptable mediator. The Court continues this matter for review on the status of mediation to September 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., in Department 6, and continues to reserve jurisdiction over the pending motions. No later than two weeks prior to the continued hearing date, the parties shall submit a joint statement indicating the status regarding selection of a mediator.

11. PR0001028 Estate of Kent Thomas Edwards

Appearances are required. The Court grants the June 10, 2026, motion of Petitioner Nevada County Public Administrator. This matter is continued to July 10, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., in Department 6, to be heard in conjunction with PR0000967. Petitioner shall provide notice of the continued court date. Additionally, no later than 2 weeks prior to the continued court date, Petitioner shall file a response to the April 24, 2026, objection filed by Tristan Jay Roberts (as modified by the June 8, 2026, notice of errata).