FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles
NOVEMBER 9, 2026
David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
By: R. Mina, Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DECENTRALIZATION OF THE PROBATE DIVISION AND ASSIGNMENT OF PROBATE MATTERS TO COURT REGIONS	**GENERAL ORDER**

Ensuring that litigants have the most effective access to justice is key to the Court's mission. This is especially relevant in probate matters, where many litigants are elderly or have other mobility challenges. To expand access to justice in probate matters, the Court seeks to decentralize probate matters from only the Stanley Mosk Courthouse to three other courthouse locations throughout Los Angeles County. THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. **Probate Court Regions.** Probate matters shall be heard in the following four court locations (each a "Probate Court Region"). Each Probate Court Region consists of the geographic area in the judicial districts set forth in Section 4:
    (a) Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012
    (b) Van Nuys Courthouse East, 6230 Sylmar Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91401
    (c) Alhambra Courthouse, 150 West Commonwealth Ave., Alhambra, CA 91801
    (d) Compton Courthouse, 200 West Compton Blvd., Compton, CA 90220
2. **Pending Cases.** Any probate case pending before November 16, 2026, shall remain assigned to the judicial officer to whom it is currently assigned. The case shall be heard in the Probate Court Region in which that judicial officer sits, including any Probate Court Region to which the judicial officer is reassigned as part of the decentralization of the Probate Division. No such case shall be reassigned by reason of this General

Order, nor by reason of the location of the case or of the petitioner.

3. **New Cases; Determination of the Proper Probate Court Region.**

   (a) *Probate Case Cover Sheet.* Each probate case initiated on or after November 16, 2026, shall be assigned to a Probate Court Region based on the information set forth in the Probate Case Cover Sheet and Certificate of Grounds for Assignment to District (form SCLAC PRO 010) filed to initiate the case. That information includes the type of action, the grounds for assignment selected, and the address and zip code information provided.

   (b) *Judicial Districts.* The grounds and address information set forth in form SCLAC PRO 010 shall determine the judicial district for the case. The case shall be assigned to the Probate Court Region that serves that judicial district, as set forth in Section 4.

   (c) *No Permissive Filing.* A filer may not choose the Probate Court Region for a case. Each case shall be assigned to, and heard in, the Probate Court Region determined pursuant to this General Order and the judicial district determined by the information that is provided in the SCLAC PRO 010. The filing of documents at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse pursuant to Section 5 shall not affect where the case will be assigned.

4. **Judicial Districts Comprising Each Probate Court Region.** All probate matters will be filed and heard in the courthouses indicated below based on the District determination made in Section 3(b) above.

Probate Court Region	Judicial Districts
Stanley Mosk Courthouse	Central and West
Alhambra Courthouse	East, Northeast/North Central, and Southeast
Compton Courthouse	South Central, South, and Southwest
Van Nuys Courthouse East	North, Northwest, and North Valley

5. **Place of Filing/Submission.** Subject to SCLAC Local Rule 4.7 that mandates electronic filing for represented parties, initial and subsequent filings in any probate case may be made at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse. Where a case is assigned to the Van Nuys Courthouse East, Alhambra Courthouse, or Compton Courthouse Probate Court Region, filings in that case may also be made at the courthouse where that probate matter has been assigned. Filings of any kind shall not be made at the courthouse of any other Probate Court Region or at any other courthouse in the County of Los Angeles. All letters submitted to the clerk for issuance are subject to the same filing requirements set forth in this Section.

6. **Hearings; Law and Motion; Trials.**

   (a) *Hearings.* All hearings in a probate case shall be held in the department of the *Probate* Court Region to which the case is assigned.

   (b) *Law and Motion.* In a probate case assigned to any Probate Court Region, including a case previously assigned to the North District, a party filing a motion must contact *the* department to which the case is assigned to reserve a date and time for the hearing before filing the motion. The moving party must include the reserved date, time, and department in the caption of the filed motion.

   (c) *Trials.* The procedures set forth in Local Rule 4.15 shall apply to trials of contested matters in a probate case assigned to any Probate Court Region.

7. **Original Wills.** All original wills and codicils, whether lodged with a petition for probate or deposited with the Court for safekeeping (Prob. Code, §§ 732, 8200; Super. Ct. L.A. County, Local Rules, rule 4.55), shall be lodged or deposited only at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse. This requirement applies regardless of the probate court location to which the related probate case is assigned or in which it is pending.

8. **Ex Parte Applications and Proposed Orders.** Neither this General Order nor the

decentralization of the Probate Division alters the procedures governing ex parte applications or proposed orders in probate cases. Ex parte applications and proposed orders shall be filed in the case at a filing location permitted by Section 5.

This General Order is effective November 16, 2026, and shall remain in effect until otherwise ordered by the Presiding Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: November 9, 2026

SERGIO C. TAPIA II
Presiding Judge