

TO: ATTORNEYS AND SUPPORT STAFF
CC: CIRCUIT COURT CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERKS¹
FROM: SEVENTH CIRCUIT (PROBATE) COURT
DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2024

2025 PROBATE COURT DOCKETS

Effective January 1, 2025, there will be two changes to the Probate Court re-occurring dockets.

1. **Thursday 9:00 AM “Rocket Docket” Becomes “Estate Opening Docket.”**

The so-called “Rocket Docket” has served us well for many years as a quick and convenient way to open (and re-open) decedents’ estates that are uncontested and without special complications. However, with the introduction of the even quicker and more convenient “Request Review on Record” option,² the demand for the “Rocket Docket” has significantly decreased. Therefore, the “Rocket Docket” is being retired and replaced with the new “Estate Opening Docket.” This will be on Thursdays beginning at 9:00 AM. Judge Hedrick and Special Master Lojek will both preside over the “Estate Opening Docket,” with the contested and more complicated cases to be taken up on second call. If your petition is to open (or re-open) a decedent’s estate (or to convert a small estate administration to a full estate administration) and it does not qualify for either the “*Pro Se* Small Estate / Name Change Docket” or the “Request Review on Record” option, then please set it for hearing on the Thursday 9:00 AM “Estate Opening Docket.”

2. **Wednesday 10 AM Docket Becomes “General Petition Docket.”**

The Wednesday 10:00 AM docket will remain in place but will be limited to the hearing of petitions that are expected to take 20 minutes or less³ and do not qualify for any other docket. This will be a catch-all “General Petition Docket” for hearing of petitions that do not request opening (or re-opening) of a decedent’s estate or converting a small estate administration to a full estate administration. Examples of petitions to set on this docket include, but are not limited to: petitions to bring real estate into the probate estate; petitions to construe; petitions to remove a fiduciary; petitions to appoint successor fiduciaries; petitions to determine heirs or declare rights; petitions to modify or terminate trusts; petitions for name change (if filed with the assistance of an attorney); and petitions to correct birth or death certificates (if filed with the assistance of an attorney).

A copy of our 2025 Docket Calendar is attached for reference. For the dockets shaded in light blue, hearings may be scheduled by the filer through the E-Flex system and do not require permission from the Court. For the dockets shaded in light gray, hearings are scheduled either by the Court, by the Clerk or by the filer with special permission from the Court.

¹ This is approved for release to general public and posting on Circuit Court Clerk’s website.

² If you are an attorney opening a new decedent’s estate for full administration, please take advantage of the “Request Review on Record” option if the case qualifies. For more information about this option, please contact Kitty Lammers (kittylammers@jnsnashville.gov) or Deanna Alexander (deannaalexander@jnsnashville.gov).

³ If you expect the hearing to take more than 20 minutes, please contact Kitty Lammers (kittylammers@jnsnashville.gov) to request a specially set hearing.

SEVENTH CIRCUIT (PROBATE) COURT DOCKETS

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

	9:00	10:00	1:00	1:30
M	Judge Preparation	Judge Preparation	Lunch	Special Settings Judge Hedrick Courtroom 608
T	Pro Se Small Estate and Name Change Docket Special Master Lojek Courtroom 608	Special Settings Judge Hedrick Courtroom 608	Lunch	Special Settings Judge Hedrick Courtroom 608
W	Creditor Docket Special Master Lojek Courtroom 608 and Master Review Docket Probate Master Johnson Courtroom 510	General Petition Docket Judge Hedrick Courtroom 608 9:00 Docket still in progress	Lunch	Special Settings Judge Hedrick Courtroom 608
TH	Estate Opening Docket Judge Hedrick Special Master Lojek Courtroom 608	9:00 Docket still in progress	Lunch	Special Settings Judge Hedrick Courtroom 608
F	Judge Preparation	Motion Docket Judge Hedrick Courtroom 608	Mental Health Docket Judge Hedrick Video Conference	Judge Preparation