

**Tentative Rulings for June 9, 2026**  
**Department 503**

**For any matter where an oral argument is requested and any party to the hearing desires a remote appearance, such request must be timely submitted to and approved by the hearing judge. In this department, the remote appearance will be conducted through Zoom. If approved, please provide the department's clerk a correct email address. (CRC 3.672, Fresno Sup.C. Local Rule 1.1.19)**

---

---

There are no tentative rulings for the following cases. The hearing will go forward on these matters. If a person is under a court order to appear, he/she must do so. Otherwise, parties should appear unless they have notified the court that they will submit the matter without an appearance. (See California Rules of Court, rule 3.1304(c).) *The above rule also applies to cases listed in this "must appear" section.*

---

---

The court has continued the following cases. The deadlines for opposition and reply papers will remain the same as for the original hearing date.

22CECG03349      *Kathryn Crouch v. Saint Agnes Medical Center* is continued to  
Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. in Department 503.

---

(Tentative Rulings begin at the next page)

# **Tentative Rulings for Department 503**

Begin at the next page

(34)

**Tentative Ruling**

Re: ***In the Matter of Soriano***  
Superior Court Case No. 26CU00273

Hearing Date: June 9, 2026

Motion: Expedited Petition to Compromise Claim of Minor

**Tentative Ruling:**

To deny the petition, without prejudice, for the reasons explained below. In the event that oral argument is requested the minor is excused from appearing.

**Explanation:**

According to the petition, the minor has fully recovered from injuries including a headaches and soft tissue damage received in a car collision on February 27, 2025. The minor is to receive a gross settlement of \$4,700 with the balance of the settlement after medical costs, attorney fees and litigation costs to be deposited in a blocked account. There are several issues with the petition that prevent approval.

The Petition at Item 9a indicates that the minor has recovered completely from his injuries, however, there is no doctor's report of the minor's condition reflecting that she has recovered. The medical records are limited to those from the date of the accident and fails to demonstrate the minor recovered from her injuries. It appears the minor did not have further treatment following the emergency room visit. As such, the court will accept a declaration from the petitioner confirming the minor's injuries resolved without further treatment or a well-child visit with her regular doctor dated after February 27, 2025.

The Petition requests expenses in the amount of \$736.48 from the settlement including a "Demands [sic] Processing Fee" billed by "AR Writing, LLC" and over \$500 for medical records. The cost associated with the retrieval of a total of 34 pages of medical records from two providers is unreasonable. There is no explanation for why a processing fee is associated with a demand and such an expense does not appear reasonable. The court does not intend to approve charges against the minor's recovery that are unreasonable. (Prob. Code, § 3601.)

The court issued an intended ruling on May 21, 2026 identifying the above issues and allowing the filing of an amended petition in anticipation of the hearing set for June 9, 2026. No additional papers have been filed. Accordingly, the petition is denied without prejudice.

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 3.1312(a), and Code of Civil Procedure section 1019.5, subdivision (a), no further written order is necessary. The minute order



(34)

**Tentative Ruling**

Re: **Crystal Dominguez v. Steven Johnson**  
Superior Court Case No. 24CECG04530

Hearing Date: June 9, 2026

Motion: Expedited Petition to Compromise Claim of Minor

**Tentative Ruling:**

To deny the petition, without prejudice, for the reasons explained below. Hearing on this matter is set for Tuesday, June 9, 2026 in Department 503. In the event that oral argument is requested the minor is excused from appearing.

**Explanation:**

According to the petition, the minor has fully recovered from injuries received in a car collision and is to receive a gross settlement of \$15,000 with the balance of the settlement after medical costs, attorney fees and litigation costs to be deposited in a blocked account. There are several issues with the petition that prevent approval.

Attachment 13a summarizing medical expenses to be paid from the settlement indicates nearly all medical treatment providers have agreed to accept a reduced amount to satisfy the bills incurred. (Petn., Att. 13a.) These agreements reduce the medical bills from \$11,979 to \$6,285. No written evidence of the negotiated reductions has been provided to support the payment of \$6,285 from the settlement.

As a matter of law, in addition to approval of the settlement itself, attorney fees to be paid for representing the minor or incompetent must be approved by the court. (Prob. Code § 3601.) Unless the court has approved the attorney's fee agreement in advance, the court **must determine** a reasonable fee based on all the circumstances of the case and may consider the factors set forth in California Rules of Court, Probate Rule 7.955, subdivision (b).

The court must consider the terms of any fee agreement between the attorney and the representative of the minor or disabled person and must evaluate the agreement based on the facts and circumstances at the time the agreement was made. (Cal. Rules of Court, Prob. Rule 7.955(a).) **The court may allow attorney fees under a valid contingency fee agreement so long as the fees are reasonable.** (Cal. Rules of Court, Prob. Rule 7.955(a), Advisory Comm. Comment; see *Gonzalez v. Chen* (2011) 197 Cal.App.4th 881, 885-886 [lawyer not automatically entitled to maximum MICRA fees as provided in contingency agreement because court must apply factors stated in Cal. Rules of Court, Prob. Rule 7.955].) A petition seeking fees must be supported by a declaration by the attorney that addresses the factors set forth above that are relevant to the fee request. (Cal. Rules of Court, Prob. Rule 7.955(c).) Similarly, reasonable expenses and court costs to be paid out of the settlement proceeds must be approved by the court. (Prob. Code § 3601.)

