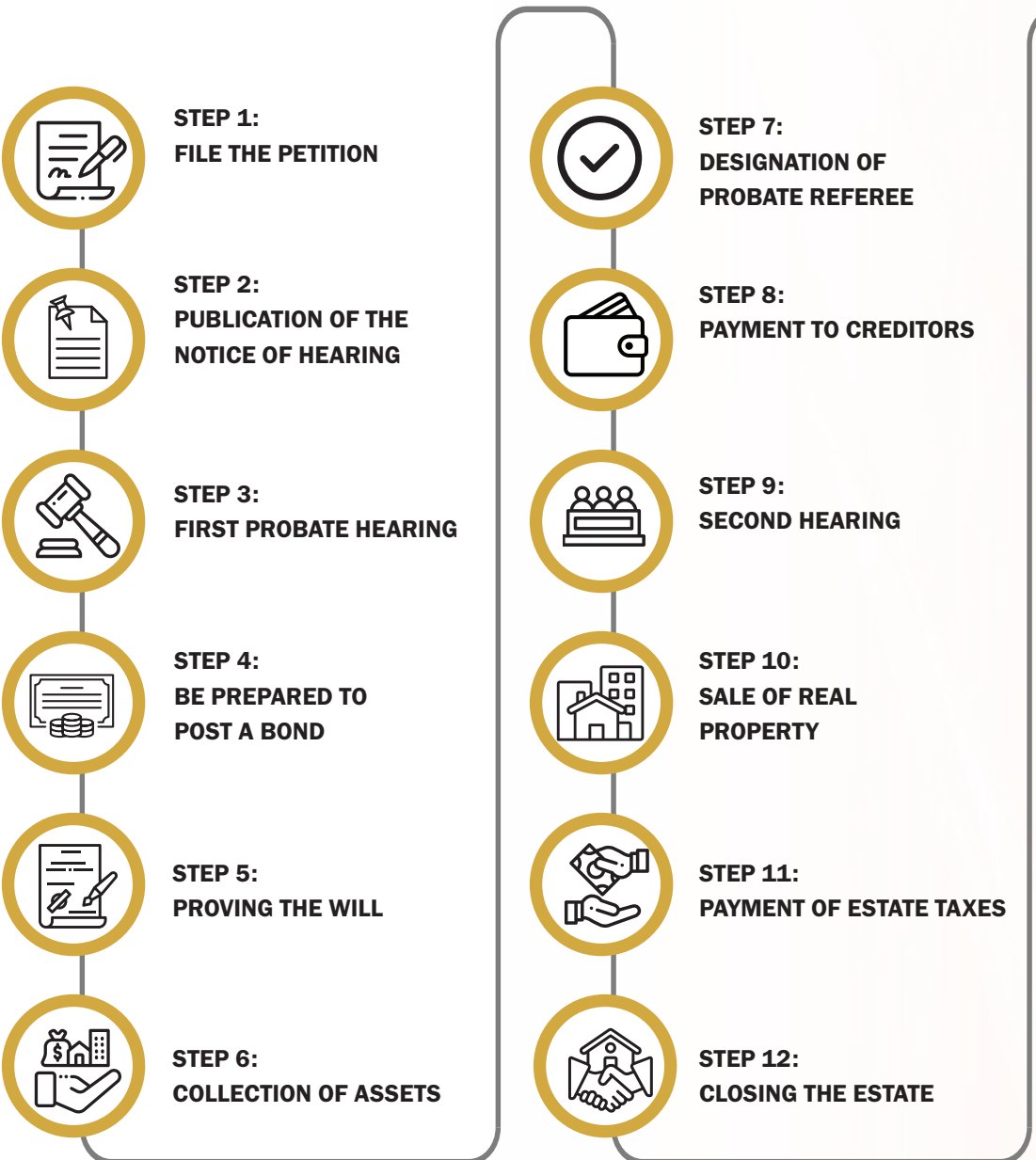


# Probate Process in California



These are the mandatory steps, in order, of the California probate process. However, be sure to review the order of the specific county probate process for the county that you are filing in, as some steps may be ordered slightly differently.



## **STEP 1: FILE THE PETITION**

The petition must be filed in the county of residence for the deceased at the time of death.

## **STEP 2: PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE OF HEARING**

A notice of the upcoming meeting must be published in the local newspaper a minimum of three times.

## **STEP 3: FIRST PROBATE HEARING**

At the initial probate hearing, the court decides who will be the Executor/Administrator/Personal Representative for the estate.

## **STEP 4: BE PREPARED TO POST A BOND**

It is likely that the Probate Court will require the Administrator to post a surety bond in order to receive their Letters of Authority as Administrator.

## **STEP 5: PROVING THE WILL**

Proving a will means convincing the Probate Court that the will in question was undoubtedly authorized by the deceased person.

## **STEP 6: COLLECTION OF ASSETS**

As the estate administrator, one of your most important responsibilities is to collect all of the eligible probate assets of the deceased; which may include personal property, vehicles, bank accounts with no beneficiaries, etc.

## **STEP 7: DESIGNATION OF PROBATE REFEREE**

With rare exceptions, the Court will assign a Probate Referee or will require you to contact an authorized Probate Referee, so that any non-monetary assets can be professionally valued.

## **STEP 8: PAYMENT TO CREDITORS**

The Administrator provides notice to creditors with a formal notice of the decedent's passing with form DE-157, Notice of Administration to Creditors.

## **STEP 9: SECOND HEARING**

At the second hearing, if all has gone to plan, will involve the judges decision on final distribution of the estate.

## **STEP 10: SALE OF REAL PROPERTY**

## **STEP 11: PAYMENT OF ESTATE TAXES**

Ensuring that the deceased's personal income tax return has been filed, estate taxes and fees are paid, including Attorney fees, accounting fees, Federal and California imposed taxes.

## **STEP 12: CLOSING THE ESTATE**

Closing the estate entails the Administrator providing a complete and final accounting that they have taken in this regard.

# Who We Are

[jenlandonhome.com/probate](http://jenlandonhome.com/probate)



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Jennifer “Jen” Landon, a seasoned Real Estate Broker and Certified Residential Appraiser since 1999, leads a team that has assisted 700+ families with over \$500M in sales. Trusted by Hollywood Elite, she represents celebrities and high-networth individuals while remaining dedicated to the communities she serves. With a deep understanding of the ever-evolving Los Angeles market, Jennifer and her team offer precision, integrity, and relentless commitment to client satisfaction. Experience excellence with Jennifer Landon as your trusted guide in Los Angeles real estate.



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Nancy Gonzalez Castillo, a California native from Los Angeles, transitioned from an 8+ year career at Sunwest Appraisals to become a Realtor®. With expertise in Southern California areas, including Ventura, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Orange County, she has successfully sold over \$16 million in real estate. Nancy’s strong work ethic, emotional intelligence, and professional poise contribute to her success in Real Estate. As a homeowner, mom of two, and wife, she empathizes with clients navigating the current real estate climate. Embracing technology, she keeps clients informed in realtime and is backed by Landon Realty Group, led by Jennifer Landon.