

CHAPTER 13
SALES

Rule 4.13.1

Publication of Notice of Sale of Real Property

A. Unless one of the exceptions mentioned in Probate Code sections 10301-10303 apply, a publication of notice of sale of real property is required. A discretionary power of sale given by a will to a named executor does not extend to an administrator with will annexed unless the will so provides.

B. The notice of sale of real property must set forth the assessor's parcel number as well as the street address or other common designation of the property, if any, or if there is none, the legal description.

C. If a petition for confirmation of sale is filed alleging the sale took place prior to the date stated in the published notice, the sale cannot be confirmed.

D. If a fiduciary publishes a notice of sale of real property, the property must be sold pursuant to such publication.

E. If notice of sale is published, any sale must be in accordance with its terms. There cannot be a variance in the terms of sale as between the notice and the petition. Also, if the notice solicits cash offers only, the court cannot confirm a sale on terms other than cash.

F. If a petition for confirmation of sale of real property is filed prior to the date of sale specified in the notice, the court cannot announce the sale on the date set for hearing, but must deny confirmation without prejudice to a new sale and filing of a new return of sale.

G. In conservatorships, notice must be given to the conservatee as well as to any person requesting special notice. In guardianships notice must be given to any ward age 12 or older.

(Adopted 1/1/1990; Rev. 7/1/1995; Rev. & Renum. 7/1/2001; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2012)

Rule 4.13.2

Vesting of Title to Property

A. The court will not confirm a sale to a "nominee" or "assignee", only to the actual buyer.

B. In a conservatorship or guardianship, a statement must be made whether or not the purchase of the real property has been made by a person with a family or affiliate relationship to the conservator or guardian as defined by Probate Code sections 2359 and 2403.

C. In a conservatorship or guardianship, a statement must be made whether or not there is a family or affiliate relationship between the conservator or guardian and any agent hired by them as defined by Probate Code sections 2359 and 2403.

(Adopted 1/1/1990; Rev. & Renum. 7/1/2001; Rev. 7/1/2002; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2009)

Rule 4.13.3

Bond on Sale of Real Property

A. Petitions for confirmation of sale of real property must set forth the amount of bond, if any, in force at the time of the sale, the amount of property in the estate which must be covered by bond subsequent to the sale, including proceeds of sale (cash and any note taken back by estate), and the probable annual income from remaining property. If no additional bond is required, or if bond is waived, such facts must be alleged.

B. Where an additional bond is required, the personal representative must file an additional bond, rather than a substitute bond, and it must be filed with the order confirming the sale.

C. In a conservatorship or guardianship, a Recovery bond must be included in the total bond as required by Probate Code section 2320 and California Rules of Court, rule 7.207.

(Adopted 1/1/1990; Renum. 7/1/2001; Rev. 7/1/2002; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2010)

Rule 4.13.4

Exclusive Listings for the Sale of Real Property

A. A specific commission percentage will not be approved by the court as part of the exclusive listing agreement. All commissions are determined at the confirmation hearing.

B. In decedent's estates, a personal representative with limited authority under the Independent Administration of Estates Act must not enter into an exclusive listing agreement or contract to sell real property of the estate without prior court approval.

(Adopted 1/1/1990; Renum. 7/1/2001; Rev. 7/1/2002; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2012; Rev. 1/1/2016)

Rule 4.13.5

Commissions on Sale of Real Property

A. In all cases, a reasonable broker's commission will be determined by the court at the time of confirmation and must be paid from proceeds of the sale confirmed by the court. The court may consider current community practices and standards in making its determination. The court may not allow a commission in excess of five percent (5%) on improved property or ten percent (10%) on unimproved property absent good cause shown for a larger commission.

B. The court must be advised whether the broker is, or has any interest in, the purchaser. (See Prob. Code, § 10160.5.)

(Adopted 1/1/1990; Rev. 1/1/1991; Rev. 7/1/1995; Rev. 7/1/2001; Rev. 7/1/2002; Rev. 1/1/2005; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2007)

Rule 4.13.6

Sale of Real Property When Buyer Assumes Encumbrance: Necessity for Minimum Deposit

A. A sale of real property may not be confirmed where the buyer assumes or takes subject to an existing encumbrance if the estate is subject to a contingent liability. The petition must set forth the facts pertinent to such assumption agreement.

B. The court requires a ten percent (10%) deposit be made prior to confirmation on any sale of real property, such deposit to be held by the personal representative.

(Adopted 1/1/1990; Rev. 1/1/1991; Rev. & Renum. 7/1/2001; Rev. 7/1/2002; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2012)

Rule 4.13.7

Sale of Specifically Devised Property

The sale may not be approved without the specific beneficiary's consent unless the court finds good cause for approval without the consent.

(Adopted 1/1/1990; Renum. 7/1/2001; Rev. 7/1/2002; Rev. & Renum. 1/1/2006)

Rule 4.13.8

Personal Property Must Be Appraised Before Sale

Sales of personal property may not be approved as sales of depreciating property, or confirmed, unless the property has been appraised. When necessary, a partial inventory and appraisal or a letter of appraisal obtained from the probate referee may be filed for this purpose.

(Adopted 1/1/1990; Renum. 7/1/2001; Rev. 7/1/2002; Renum. 1/1/2006)

Rule 4.13.9

Sales of Mobile Homes

The court may approve sales of mobile homes as depreciating property. The petition for approval must set forth the efforts made to expose the property to the market.

(Adopted 1/1/1990; Renum. 7/1/2001; Rev. 7/1/2002; Renum. 1/1/2006)

Rule 4.13.10

Sales of Securities

A. Commonly traded securities need not be appraised before the sale may be authorized.

B. In petitions for sales of listed securities, the specific exchange on which such securities are traded must be set forth.

C. In petitions for sales of unlisted securities, the recent bid and asked prices must be set forth.

D. Petitions for sale of mutual funds redeemable by the issuer at net asset value need only allege that the shares will be redeemed for the net asset value per share on the date of redemption.

E. If securities are "closely held," the petition must furnish the basis (by appraisal or otherwise in the discretion of the court) for fixing the minimum sales price.

F. The order authorizing the sale of any bond or unlisted stock (other than a mutual fund) must provide that the sale must be at not less than a specified amount per unit.

(Adopted 1/1/1990; Renum. 7/1/2001; Rev. 7/1/2002; Renum. 1/1/2006)

Rule 4.13.11

Overbids

If the overbid is on terms different from the terms of the returned sale, the offer may be considered only if the personal representative, prior to confirmation of the sale, informs the court in person or by counsel that the offer is acceptable.

(Adopted 1/1/1990; Renum. 7/1/2001; Rev. 7/1/2002; Renum. 1/1/2006)

Rule 4.13.12

Increased Bid Forms

When there is a successful overbid in open court on a sale of real property, an “Increased Bid in Open Court” (SDSC PR-065) must be completed, signed, and filed with the court before the conclusion of the hearing; otherwise, confirmation is not effective.

(Rev. & Renum. 7/1/2001; Rev. & Renum. 1/1/2006)

Rule 4.13.13

Allowance of Commissions Upon Overbid

When sale is confirmed upon an overbid and a real estate commission is involved, it is the duty of counsel for the estate to compute the commission pursuant to Probate Code section 10164 or 10165 and any allocation thereof between brokers per any agreement they may have, and to report the same to the court for its approval and inclusion in the court's minute order.

(Adopted 1/1/1990; Rev. & Renum. 7/1/2001; Rev. 7/1/2002; Renum. 1/1/2006)