

1. ESTATE OF SOILAND, PP20170126**Petition to Approve Modification of Settlement**

On February 17, 2026, the special administrator filed a verified petition to approve modification of the settlement agreement that was executed on January 8, 2020 (and approved by this court on February 24, 2020), between the following parties:

(1) Jeannine Altmeyer, the decedent's wife; (2) Solveig Bianca, decedent's daughter; and (3) Tove Soiland, decedent's daughter. The original settlement provided that Laila Soiland,¹ the decedent's daughter who had not been seen or heard from in decades, was entitled to an 18.33 percent share of the net sales proceeds of the Golden Bird sculpture. (Petn., Ex. A at p. 8 under Agreements, ¶ 6(d)(iii).)

After locating Laila and confirming her decision to decline any distribution from the estate, the settling parties have executed a Settlement Modification Agreement to dispose of Laila's share. (Petn., ¶ 5 & Ex. C.) The modified settlement effectively distributes to Jeaninne, Solveig, and Tove the share they voluntarily created for Laila in the same percentages as prior distributions. Absent court approval, Laila's share would remain undistributed and confer no benefit on the decedent's family. (Petn., ¶ 23.)

Proof of service filed March 6, 2026, shows the petition was timely served upon all parties via mail that same day. (Prob. Code, §§ 1220, subd. (a)(1) [requiring 15 calendar days' notice], 9611, subd. (c), 9837, subd. (c).)

On March 10, 2026, counsel for Dr. Daniel Leu² submitted a declaration certifying the translation of the declaration of Ulrich Graber filed in this case on November 14, 2025.

¹ The court will refer to the parties by first name only. The court intends no disrespect.

² Dr. Leu claims to be the power of attorney for Ulrich Graber, the alleged guardian of Laila's estate as appointed by an administrative agency in Switzerland – the Swiss Confederation's Child and Adult Protection Agency (Kindes-und Erwachsenenschutzbehörde), Meilen District, which is commonly referred to as the "KESB."

Dr. Leu's position is that Mr. Graber is entitled to collect Laila's share from the decedent's estate.

The court has previously given Dr. Leu multiple opportunities to present admissible evidence supporting his position and standing in this matter and he has not done so. The Special Administrator states that Laila does not live in Switzerland, and it is not clear why she would need a guardian in Switzerland as she is living independently in a different country. Further, Swiss law and authority vested in Swiss government agencies are not applicable to a California probate action involving the estate of a California permanent resident. Accordingly, there is no basis to distribute Laila's share to Mr. Gruber.

The petition to approve the modification to the settlement agreement is granted.

TENTATIVE RULING # 1: THE PETITION IS GRANTED AS REQUESTED. NO HEARING ON THIS MATTER WILL BE HELD (*LEWIS v. SUPERIOR COURT* (1999) 19 CAL.4TH 1232, 1247), UNLESS A NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR AND REQUEST FOR ORAL ARGUMENT IS TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE COURT'S WEBSITE OR BY TELEPHONE TO THE COURT AT (530) 573-3042 BY 4:00 P.M. ON THE DAY THE TENTATIVE RULING IS ISSUED. NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES OF AN INTENT TO APPEAR MUST BE MADE BY TELEPHONE OR IN PERSON. PROOF OF SERVICE OF SAID NOTICE MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO OR AT THE HEARING.