

Practical Steps for What to Do After A Loved One Dies

1. Immediately after death

- Get a legal pronouncement of death
- Tell friends, family, employer
- Familiarize yourself with existing funeral and burial plans/wishes, including options if loved one was a Veteran, member of a fraternal or religious group

2. Within a few days

- Make funeral, burial, or cremation arrangements
- Secure loved one's personal property
- Provide care for pets, as needed
- Forward mail

3. After two weeks

- Secure certified copies of death certificate
- Find the will, reach out to the executor and power of attorney, if applicable
- If not already identified, consider locating a trust and estates attorney and CPA to help with settling the estate, navigating probate and filing taxes
- Make an inventory of assets. Review of tax records, bank accounts, safe deposit boxes, etc. to compile most complete inventory.
- Alert the following of loved one's death if they were beneficiaries, customers or clients: Social Security Administration, Veteran's Administration, Life Insurance/Long Term Care companies, banks or financial institutions, financial advisors, frequent buyer/flier programs
- Delete/memorialize social media accounts
- Close email accounts
- Consider contacting other entities to prevent potential identity theft: Credit agencies, passport office
- Update voter registration office

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