

The Digital Afterlife

In an increasingly digital world, survivor responsibilities no longer end at tying up the physical or financial estate. These days we must also dismantle a person's digital life. To help you through this process, we have compiled information on how to close out accounts with today's most popular social media sites. Most companies will not provide any login information or data without a court order but they will work with a verified immediate family member or legal representative of the estate to suspend, delete, or memorialize accounts.

Facebook

Facebook allows legacy contact, immediate family or the executor of a person's estate to "memorialize" their loved one's account. Memorializing an account freezes the profile page, keeping photos, posts and life events in tact. Anyone who was Facebook friends with the deceased can gather on this page to share memories, photos and words of comfort for the family. The word "Remembering" is added in front of the person's name and the profile becomes private, no longer appearing on other timelines under friend suggestions, birthday suggestions, ads, etc. You can fill out the form [here](#). Note: you will need proof that the account holder has died such as a link to the obituary or a scanned copy of one.

A Facebook account can also be removed from the platform entirely. This requires extra documentation proving you are an immediate family member or the executor of the estate. You will need one of the following documents to prove authority:

- Power of Attorney
- Birth Certificate
- Last Will and Testament
- Estate Letter

You will also need one of the following to prove your loved one has passed away:

- Obituary
- Memorial Card

When you have compiled the necessary documents, you can submit the deletion request [here](#).

NOTE: Cover up any personal information that Facebook does not need to fulfill your request such as your Social Security number!

We recommend appointing a "Legacy Contact" through Facebook itself. Appointing a Legacy Contact lets Facebook know who is approved to manage your memorialized page or delete your profile all together. It also lets **you** decide what happens to your page after you're gone, taking a weight off your loved ones' shoulders. Appoint a Legacy Contact [here](#).

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Instagram

Following in Facebook's steps, Instagram now lets friends and family memorialize accounts of departed loved ones. If you see an account of someone who has passed away, you can submit a memorialization request here with proof of death such as a link to an obit or news article. Once memorialized, the account is frozen in time and can only be viewed by the audience they shared with. Memorialize an account [here](#).

Only immediate family can request that an account be deleted. In addition to proof of death, you will need to provide proof that you are an immediate relative through one of the following documents:

- Deceased's birth certificate
- Deceased's death certificate
- Written proof that you are the legal representative of the deceased or his/her estate

You can submit your request [here](#). Remember to cover personal and irrelevant information like Social Security Numbers!

Twitter

Twitter will work with a legal representative of the estate or verified immediate family member to delete an account after a death occurs. First, submit your request using this [form](#). Twitter will then reach out to you with instructions on how to provide more information. They will be looking for more information about the deceased, your own identification and a copy of the death certificate.

LinkedIn

Perhaps the simplest notification process, LinkedIn simply asks anyone, regardless of their relationship to the deceased, to fill out this [form](#). You will need:

- The name and email of the deceased
- The url to their profile
- The date they passed away
- A link to their obituary

Pinterest

To deactivate an account, email Pinterest at care@pinterest.com with proof of death, proof of authority and a link to the account. (Reference the Facebook or Instagram sections for examples of proof of death and authority.)

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Google & Youtube

Google will work with immediate family deceased person's account. As with prepared to provide proof of authority



or legal representatives to deactivate a previously listed digital accounts, be and death. You can start the process [here](#).

If you are a fan of taking a more proactive approach, consider naming an “Inactive Account Manager.” In doing so, you will let Google know who can access your information upon your death and whether or not you want your account deleted. Learn more about naming an Inactive Account Manager [here](#).

Yahoo

According to the Terms of Service agreed upon when the account holder registered with Yahoo, neither the account nor the content is transferrable. Upon the death of the account holder, Yahoo will work with immediate family or a legal estate representative to suspend billing or premium services, close the account and delete all content. You will have to send the documents listed below to the following address:

Concierge Executive Escalations
Yahoo, Inc.
5250 NE Elam Young Parkway
Hillsboro, OR 97124

- A written letter of request containing the deceased's Yahoo I.D.
- A copy of a document proving you are the legal representative of the estate
- A copy of the death certificate

For more information, click [here](#) or email customer service at lec-support@yahoo-inc.com.

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