

Facebook Memorialization and Legacy

In years past when we would concern ourselves with getting our affairs in order, we did not have social media accounts to consider, but questions surrounding account security, assigning someone to administrate your page, and concerns regarding how your memories and photos are displayed have become just as important as how we deal with our other non-digital accounts.

If you have been involved with Facebook for any length of time and have suffered the loss of a loved one, you have inevitably encountered photos or posts of your loved one as “Your Memories” posts and birthday reminders populate in the years after their passing. This can be a troubling and emotional experience as you work through the process of grieving. No doubt, you have also noticed on your loved one’s birthday, the people who are not aware of their death and continue to wish them a happy birthday.

With those concerns in mind, whether you’re planning ahead or you’re looking to make adjustments to a loved one’s account, we can explore the ways in which Facebook helps individuals deal with end of life matters regarding their pages; there are primarily two items which Facebook offers, **Memorialization** and **Legacy Contacts**.

Memorialization

Memorialized accounts create a space for friends and family to share memories after a person has passed. Memorialized accounts have the following key features:

- *The word “Remembering” will be shown next to the person's name on their profile.
- Depending on the privacy settings of the account, friends can share memories on the memorialized timeline.
- Content the person shared (example: photos, posts) stays on Facebook and is visible on Facebook to the audience it was shared with.
- Memorialized profiles don't appear in public spaces such as in suggestions for People You May Know, ads or birthday reminders.
- No one can log into a memorialized account.
- Memorialized accounts that don't have a legacy contact can't be changed.

- Pages with a sole admin whose account was memorialized will be removed from Facebook if we receive a valid memorialization request. **from Facebook's website url <https://www.facebook.com/help/103897939701143>*

To have an account marked for memorialization follow this link, <https://www.facebook.com/help/contact/234739086860192>, Facebook will require the name of the deceased, the date of death, and documentation of the death (death certificate, obituary, or memorial card from a service), and a functioning email for the person reporting the death. Once the information has been entered, click **Send** at the bottom of the page.

Facebook also offers to help create a fundraiser to offset any costs associated with the funeral services.

Legacy Contact *

When considering Memorialization, one question lingers, “Who can I assign to take care of the memorialization process for my Facebook page?”. It is for this express purpose that Facebook created the “Legacy Contact”.

What can a Legacy Contact do?

- Write a pinned post for your profile (example: to share a final message on your behalf or provide information about a memorial service).
- View posts, even if you had set your privacy to Only Me.
- Decide who can see and who can post tributes, if the memorialized account has an area for tributes.
- Delete tribute posts.
- Change who can see posts that you're tagged in.
- Remove tags of you that someone else has posted.
- Respond to new friend requests (example: old friends or family members who weren't yet on Facebook).
- Update your profile picture and cover photo.
- Request the removal of your account.

- Turn off the requirement to review posts and tags before they appear in the tributes section, if you had timeline review turned on.
- Download a copy of what you've shared on Facebook, if you have this feature turned on.* <https://www.facebook.com/help/1568013990080948>.

The steps to adding a legacy contact are very simple:

1. Go to **Settings & Privacy**, then go to **Settings**
2. From there click on **Memorialization Settings**.
3. Inside the field, **Choose a Friend**, type in the name of your friend, then click **Add**.
4. Let your contact know that they are your legacy contact by clicking **Send**

Perhaps it's your desire to have your Facebook account deleted after your passing, Facebook will allow verified immediate family members to request the removal of a loved one's account after their passing.

For more information on Facebook's policies and instructions for Frequently Asked Questions regarding Memorialization and Legacy Contacts please refer to this link from Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/help/1506822589577997/>