

# 17 THINGS TO DO AFTER THE FUNERAL

## **Before you do anything, get a notebook.**

You'll want to record the date and time of every phone conversation, email or postal communication; if you did it, write it down. Be sure to include the full name of the person you spoke to, their job title; and their employer identification or extension number.

## **Check to see if deceased had left a will.**

This may require contacting the family attorney, checking your safe deposit box or home safe or the state Will Registry.

## **Stop health insurance coverage.**

You may need to provide them with additional information, so keep your relevant paperwork handy.

## **Initiate probate.**

Even if you're not the executor, if you have an interest in the estate, it's possible for you initiate probate court proceedings (but only if the designated executor of the estate fails to do so in a timely way). You may want to find and hire an estate settlement attorney.

## **Transfer title of real and personal property.**

Whether it's an automobile, boat, motorcycle, RV, or plane; you'll need to inform your state department of motor vehicles of the change in ownership. At the very same time, notify any related vehicular or personal property insurance companies of the change in status.

## **Notify other policy holders of the change in "Beneficiary" status.**

If your loved one was a designated beneficiary on the insurance policies; investment or banking accounts of other individuals, then you'll need to notify them of the death of a beneficiary.

## **Change stocks and bonds into your name.**

Again, this depends on your relationship status to the deceased. To do this, you'll need to provide certified copy of the death certificate to all organizations involved.

## **Tend to their digital estate.**

If they were active on social media, you'll need to inform the specific networking sites of the change in status. You will need to close email accounts as well as any online banking portal or investment accounts.

## **Request certified copies of the Death Certificate.**

Speak with one of our funeral professionals to determine just how many you will require.

## **Get the mail redirected, if applicable.**

Visit the United States Postal Service website to learn more about how to submit a Change of Address form. Or stop by your local post office.

## **Make sure to pay the bills.**

Some folks have their bills paid automatically, but if this isn't the case here, you'll need to take care of them before they become delinquent. If you fear delinquency, you may wish to speak with a representative to work out a payment plan.

## **Contact employer or union.**

Determine if there are any death-related benefits available, ask (and answer) questions, and change any relevant contact information.

## **Notify utility departments.**

Depending on the situation, the accounts may be closed, or the account owner's name and contact details changed.

## **Close or modify credit card accounts.**

Depending on the situation, the accounts may be closed, or the account owner's name and contact details changed.

## **Contact life insurance companies.**

Not everyone has life insurance; but some people have more than one policy. No matter how many policies were in force, you will probably need to provide each of them with a certified copy of the death certificate for each claim made.

## **Arrange to close or modify bank accounts.**

Depending on your relationship to the deceased, you may be entitled to convert into your name.

## **Report the death to other agencies.**

Depending on the age or military status of the deceased, you may need to notify either the Social Security Administration or the Veterans Administration (or both). Other agencies of interest include membership organizations (professional or avocational associations, Masonic lodges, Rotary Clubs, gym and golf course memberships -just to name a few).

