

# Options for Controlling and Handling Social Media Accounts of a Deceased Person

As an executor of someone's estate, you have a lot of responsibilities. Along with all the responsibilities that come with this role, you must also figure out how to deal with the deceased individual's social media accounts.

When doing this, you may wonder:

- How can you delete or freeze an online account when someone passes away?
- What is the safest option to deal with a deceased person's social media accounts?

Options vary with all social media brands and online profiles regarding what happens to the account when someone dies. It is up to the executor to decide what to do – if anything.

Sometimes, memorializing is the desired action; however, deleting the account may be best in other cases.

Each website and company have a unique TOS – terms of service. It can be overwhelming to get through and decipher all this information, so it is best to take time to read all the information found here and decide what strategy to take when it comes to a deceased person's social media accounts.

## **Options for Controlling and Handling Social Media Accounts of a Deceased Person**

You have three options for handling social media accounts. These include:

### **1. Memorialize**

With this option, the profile settings remain as they were when a person died. While it depends on the settings, it may be possible for others to leave messages on the deceased person's page.

### **2. Deactivate**

With this option, the profile, comments, likes, and photos are hidden until the executor (or a family member) reactivates it. With this option, the information nor content is destroyed.

### **3. Delete**

Deleting the account means that all comments, photos, and the entire profile are erased permanently. No one will be able to see any information that was once contained in the account.

## **The Existence of a Deceased Person's Social Media Account After Death**

Until the social media company where a deceased person had an account is notified of their death, the account will remain in place and active. Every platform has unique practices and policies regarding how an account can be controlled or managed after a person's death.

Some social media sites will allow a person's profile to be memorialized.

When this is done, the word "remembering" is put ahead of the person's name, and it will not appear in "people you may know" sections, send out reminders for the person's birthday, or show up in Facebook ads.

If the executor is named as the account's legal contact, this is the individual who can manage and monitor the account when it is memorialized.

If there is no legacy contact selected, the executor must prove they have the right to take control of the account.

This should be provided by the documentation provided when the individual was named as the executor of the estate.

### **Why Deleting the Account May be Necessary?**

After someone dies, there is the possibility that news reporters will "snoop" around trying to find a story or to get a comment.

Also, insurance companies may use the information to refuse the payout on a life insurance policy.

While this may seem far-fetched, it is something that has happened and could happen again. In many cases, simply deleting these accounts is the best course of action.

## **Google**

A single Google account may be linked to an array of different products, which include YouTube, Gmail, and Google Drive (to name a few).

Before moving forward with deleting this account, it is necessary to ensure it is not linked to the deceased person's spouse, as this may impact their ability to access certain information or files.

If necessary, it is possible to export the data before deleting the account.

This is essentially a copy or backup of the information. After the information is downloaded, the account has been deleted.

You can follow the instructions provided by the information on the [Google account support page](#).

## **Facebook**

With Facebook, you can memorialize, deactivate, or delete the account. To delete the account, it is necessary to follow the [instructions provided on Facebook's website](#).

Facebook also requires a copy of the person's death certificate.

It is important to remember that if you delete the account, friends of the deceased person can still access the messaging history that is not stored in the actual account.

It is also possible to memorialize the account (as mentioned above). With this option, family and friends can continue to share memories. Facebook also provides information and resources on how to [memorialize the account](#).

Another option is to create a Tribute account on Facebook. This expands the memorialized account by letting family and friends share posts all while mainlining the original timeline on the account.

There is a separate tab for the Tributes, which allows people to share stories that remain separate from the account history.

## **Instagram**

Facebook owns Instagram. This means the options for dealing with a deceased person's account are like the ones mentioned above. You can learn to [memorialize the account](#) on Instagram's page or figure out how to [delete it completely](#).

## **Amazon**

There are two membership options available through Amazon. One option is a basic account, and the other is Prime membership.

With the Prime account, a fee is charged for the service. Therefore, it is necessary to close this one first.

To cancel this membership, the process is simple and straightforward. All you have to do is choose "end membership," and then all [unused benefits will be refunded](#).

For a basic membership, you can delete the account, eliminating all linked services, such as the purchase history, photos, and anything found on Amazon drive.

However, before canceling the account, be sure to download the content you plan to save.

If you want to keep the Amazon account, change the email address to remove the payment in place or [change the account settings](#).

## **Twitter**

This social media platform will work with you to help deactivate the deceased person's account. However, they do not provide full access to the account because of the privacy policy they have in place.

You can contact Twitter to discuss the necessary steps to deactivate the account. After you have answered a few questions, Twitter will provide you with an email [providing additional instructions](#) about what to do and how to move forward with the process.

## **LinkedIn**

With LinkedIn, you can remove a person's profile from the platform. There is an entire list of information that LinkedIn requires before they move forward with your request.

You must provide information like your role in the deceased person's estate or a copy of their death certificate.

Once you have the information requested, you can close the account or remove their profile by filling out a form.

## **Handling a Deceased Person's Social Media Accounts**

When someone dies, there is a lot to handle and deal with.

When it comes to social media accounts, there are several steps that must be taken to handle these presences.

Keep the tips and information here in mind to know what to do and how to ensure the right outcome is achieved.

Being informed and knowing what steps to take is the best way to ensure that the right options are needed.