

✿ Step-by-Step: Closing Social Media Accounts After Death

Each platform has its own process. You'll typically need:

- **Proof of death** (death certificate, obituary)
- **Proof of authority** (will, power of attorney, court documents)

1. Facebook

- **Options:** Memorialize or delete.
- **Memorialize:** Adds "Remembering" to profile, disables login.
- **Delete:** Submit this form.
- **Required:** Death certificate + proof of authority (will, executor letter, etc.)[\[1\]](#).

2. Instagram

- **Options:** Memorialize or delete.
- **Memorialize:** Submit obituary or news article.
- **Delete:** Only verified immediate family can request deletion via this form.
- **Required:** Birth certificate, death certificate, proof of authority.[\[1\]](#)

3. Twitter (X)

- **No memorialization.**
- **Delete:** Submit request with death certificate and proof of authority here.[\[1\]](#)

4. LinkedIn

- **Options:** Memorialize or delete.
- **Memorialize:** Anyone can submit obituary link.
- **Delete:** Requires death certificate + legal authority (executor letter, etc.) via LinkedIn's form.[\[1\]](#)

5. TikTok

- **No official process.**



Brought to you by KG Website Designs

All material within is copyrighted and cannot be copied without direct permission from KG Website Designs.

- **Delete:** Email support at feedback@tiktok.com with documentation.[\[2\]](#)

6. YouTube / Google

- **Delete:** Submit request to Google [here](#).
- **Required:** Death certificate + government ID + proof of authority.
- **Google Inactive Account Manager:** If set up, allows access after inactivity.[\[3\]](#)

Closing Other Digital Accounts

Email Accounts

- **Gmail:** Use Google's request form.
- **Yahoo/Outlook:** Contact support with death certificate and legal documents.
- **Note:** Most providers won't give access unless you're legally authorized.[\[4\]](#)

Cloud Storage

- **Google Drive / Photos:** Use Inactive Account Manager or submit request.
- **Apple iCloud:** Legacy Contact with access key + death certificate.
- **Dropbox:** Contact support with proof of death and legal authority.[\[2\]](#)

Subscriptions & Services

- **Amazon, Netflix, PayPal, Venmo, etc.:** Contact customer service with documentation.
- **Some accounts (e.g., Microsoft):** May require court order.[\[4\]](#)

Best Practices to Prevent Hacking

1. **Secure the deceased's devices:**
 - Lock phones, computers, and tablets.
 - Remove saved passwords and auto-logins.



Brought to you by KG Website Designs

All material within is copyrighted and cannot be copied without direct permission from KG Website Designs.

2. Use a password manager:

- If they used one (e.g., Roboform, Passkey), check for emergency access features.[\[3\]](#)

3. Enable two-factor authentication (2FA):

- Disable or transfer 2FA where possible to prevent lockouts or misuse.

4. Monitor for identity theft:

- Consider placing a credit freeze or fraud alert with credit bureaus.

5. Create a digital will:

- For future planning, document account access and wishes in a legal format.[\[3\]](#)



What You'll Need

- Death certificate (certified copy)
- Proof of relationship or legal authority (executor letter, will, etc.)
- Account details (username, email, profile URL)
- Government-issued ID

References

[1] [How to Close the Social Media Accounts of a Dead Relative](#)

[2] [How to Manage Online Accounts After Death | Willful](#)

[3] [How to Prepare Your Digital Life for Your Death - PCMag](#)

[4] [Digital Footprint After Death | Dignity Memorial](#)

If a loved one passes away and you **don't have access to their passwords or login credentials**, you can still take steps to **secure or shut down their digital footprint**. Here's a comprehensive guide based on legal and platform-specific procedures:



Brought to you by KG Website Designs

All material within is copyrighted and cannot be copied without direct permission from KG Website Designs.

Step-by-Step: Closing Accounts Without Passwords

1. Become the Legal Representative

To act on behalf of the deceased, you must be legally recognized as their **executor, administrator, or trustee**. This is typically done through:

- **Will** (Executor)
- **Court appointment** (Letters Testamentary or Letters of Administration)
- **Trust documents**

This legal status is essential for requesting access or closure of accounts.[\[1\]](#)

2. Gather Required Documents

Most companies will ask for:

- **Certified death certificate**
- **Proof of legal authority** (executor documents)
- **Proof of relationship** (if required)
- **Known account info** (email, username, profile URL)

Some platforms may also ask for:

- Government-issued ID
 - Obituary or public death notice[\[2\]](#)
-

3. Submit Requests to Platforms

Google (Gmail, Drive, YouTube)

- Use [Google's Deceased User Request Form](#)
- You can request account closure or data download (if you're a legal representative)
- Google will **not** provide passwords[\[3\]](#)



Brought to you by KG Website Designs

All material within is copyrighted and cannot be copied without direct permission from KG Website Designs.

Apple (iCloud, iTunes)

- Use Apple's **Digital Legacy** program (if set up)
- Otherwise, request access with a **court order** and death certificate
- Apple may allow data download but not device unlocking without erasing^[2]

Facebook

- Request memorialization or deletion via Facebook's form
- No login required, but documentation is needed

Instagram

- Submit a request with death certificate and proof of relationship
- Instagram's memorialization form

Twitter/X

- Submit a request via Twitter's privacy form
- Requires death certificate and legal authority

LinkedIn

- Use LinkedIn's form
- Requires death certificate and proof of authority

4. Request Data Deletion from Other Companies

Even without login access, you can:

- **Submit a data deletion request** under privacy laws (e.g., CCPA, GDPR)
- Use company-specific privacy forms or email support
- Example: Spotify, Netflix, PayPal, etc. often have privacy request portals^[4]

5. Opt Out of Data Brokers



Brought to you by KG Website Designs

All material within is copyrighted and cannot be copied without direct permission from KG Website Designs.

Data brokers may still hold personal info. You can:

- Use opt-out guides from [DeleteMe](#)
- Remove data from sites like Whitepages, Spokeo, BeenVerified, etc.
- Repeat every few months to ensure data stays removed[4]

Legal Considerations

- **RUFADAA** (Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act) gives fiduciaries rights to manage digital assets in most U.S. states[1]
- **Stored Communications Act** may limit access to email content but allow metadata or account deletion[1]
- **Terms of Service** often override general laws—each company has its own rules[5]

Tips for Success

- **Don't try to log in** using known passwords unless explicitly allowed—it may violate terms or laws.
- **Keep a spreadsheet** of accounts, request status, and next steps.
- **Consult an estate attorney** for complex cases or if access is denied.

References

- [1] [How to Get Access to Online Accounts After Death - LegalClarity](#)
- [2] [A Loved One Dies. No One Knows Their Passwords. Here's What to Do.](#)
- [3] [Submit a request regarding a deceased user's account](#)
- [4] [How to Request to Delete Personal Data - JoinDeleteMe](#)
- [5] [Digital Property FAQs - American Bar Association](#)



Brought to you by KG Website Designs

All material within is copyrighted and cannot be copied without direct permission from KG Website Designs.

Here's a **sample email template** you can use to contact companies when requesting the closure or deletion of a deceased loved one's account **without access to their login credentials**:

 **Subject: Request to Close Account of Deceased Individual**

To: [Company Support Email or Privacy Contact]

Subject: Request to Close Account of Deceased Individual

Dear [Company Name] Support Team,

I am writing to formally request the closure of an account belonging to my [relation, e.g., father, spouse], **[Full Name of Deceased]**, who passed away on **[Date of Death]**.

Unfortunately, we do not have access to their login credentials, but we would like to ensure their account is properly closed to prevent unauthorized access and protect their digital privacy.

Account Information:

- **Full Name:** [Full Name of Deceased]
- **Email Address Associated with Account:** [Email]
- **Username/Profile URL (if known):** [Link or Username]
- **Date of Death:** [Date]
- **Location of Death:** [City, State]

Attached Documents:

- Certified copy of the **death certificate**
- Proof of my legal authority (e.g., **executor of estate, letters testamentary, or court appointment**)
- My government-issued ID

Please let me know if any additional documentation is required or if there is a specific form I should complete. We appreciate your assistance during this difficult time and thank you for helping us protect our loved one's digital legacy.



Brought to you by KG Website Designs

All material within is copyrighted and cannot be copied without direct permission from KG Website Designs.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Relationship to the Deceased]

[Your Contact Information]

[Mailing Address]



Brought to you by KG Website Designs

All material within is copyrighted and cannot be copied without direct permission from KG Website Designs.