



## End-of-life Planning: Ultimate Guide

You can go through this guide step-by-step or you can focus on specific articles that might be more relevant to your situation. Either way, we've crafted the guide to ensure everything in your life is protected and that you feel fully prepared.

For now, see how GoodTrust can help you take care of you and your family.

Remember you can also create a free account anytime at [mygoodtrust.com](https://mygoodtrust.com).



GOODTRUST



## STEP 1

# Get Your Affairs In Order

No matter your age or health, it's never too early to create an end-of-life plan. It could be finalizing your bucket list, choosing a legal guardian, or clarifying which medical procedures you'd like to be done if you become incapacitated. Regardless of your choices, it's important to get your affairs in order while you still have the time and mental capacity to do so.



## CREATE A BUCKET LIST (101 IDEAS)

A bucket list is a to-do list of your big and small dreams. It helps you achieve as much as you can during your time on Earth. [Click here](#) to learn how to make a bucket list and find inspiration for your own. →



## WILLS & DIRECTIVES

Your Will lets people know what you want to be done with your estate and can help your loved ones ensure your final desires are met. [Click here](#) to create a Will on GoodTrust. →



## CHOOSE LEGAL GUARDIAN

It's crucial to choose a legal guardian for your children, no matter how young and healthy you are. Here, we offer advice about how to choose the right guardian for your children and steps for assigning guardianship. →



## CHOOSE AN EXECUTOR

Your Will's executor is one of the most important people in your end-of-life plan. They ensure your Will is carried out and may need to have challenging discussions with others involved. Here, we provide some ideas for how to pick the right person. →



## PREPLAN YOUR FUNERAL

Planning your funeral takes one stressor off your loved ones and helps ensure you get the memorial you desire. Here, we'll discuss some ways to make that plan and communicate it to others. →



## ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

Advance directives are essential when planning for your end-of-life medical care. Learn about the different types of advance directives and how to create one. →



## ASSIGN POWER OF ATTORNEY

A person with Power of Attorney (POA) is allowed to make financial, medical, and possibly other decisions on your behalf. There are many legal ins and outs involved, and this article aims to help navigate those. →



## PET DIRECTIVE

Pets are also members of our families. But do you know what will happen to them if the unexpected happens to you? Ensure that your cat, dog, feathered or scaly companion ends up safe and sound by creating a GoodTrust Pet Directive. We're animal lovers like you, and we're here to help. →





## HOW TO

# 101 Unique Ideas For A Bucket List | GoodTrust

A “bucket list” is a list of things you want to do before dying. The phrase is so common it’s almost cliché, but believe it or not, it’s a relatively new saying. In 2007, the movie *The Bucket List*, in which Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman played two cancer patients living their best lives until they “kicked the bucket.”

Today, the meaning has expanded to encompass goals people want to achieve by certain ages or other milestones. So, whether you’re five or 95 years old, sick or healthy, it’s never a wrong time to create a bucket list.

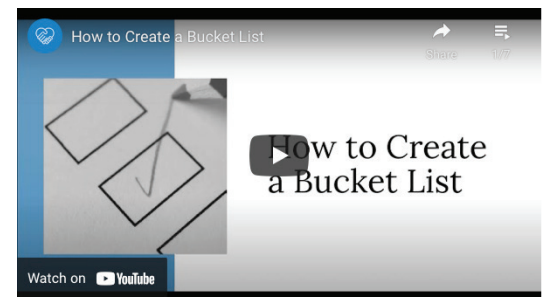
But, where to start? And what should go on it?

Let’s dig into those questions.

## How to Create a Bucket List in 6 Steps

No two bucket lists are exactly alike. For example, children and young people could have a short (or magical!) bucket list about going to a theme park, meeting the Tooth Fairy, or earning all A’s. On the other hand, the lists for adults could have more grown-up items, like getting married, promoted, or traveling the world.

But no matter how old someone is, the steps toward making a bucket list are essentially the same.



### 1. Set Aside Time to Work Alone

This is your bucket list and no one else’s. So even if you’re married, in a permanent relationship, or have children, this is a time for you to dream without outside influences.

You could make this a family activity, though, where each of you spends a few days creating your bucket lists so you can talk about them when you get to step four.

### 2. Make a List of What Drives You

Do you love to get your adrenaline pumping? Is your fondest memory of your trip to the beach when you were a kid, and you can’t wait to get back there? Are you passionate about helping animals?

There are no wrong answers during brainstorming (or making a bucket list in general). This is a time for reflection. Without overthinking, write down a list of all the things that you’re passionate about.





## How to Create a Bucket List in 6 Steps

### 3. Come Up with Long- and Short-Term Ideas

Using your list of passions, ask yourself the big question: If I died tomorrow, what would I regret not doing the most?

Those can be the foundation of your bucket list ideas.

Come up with thoughts about how you can put those passions into action. Make sure you have things for both the short and long term, as achieving smaller goals can make you feel you can meet those bigger ones.

For instance, if you're all about the adrenaline, you could make a short-term goal of taking local skydiving lessons. A long-term goal could be riding the largest roller coaster in each state.

If you want to get back to that beach, your short-term goal could be to go to that beach (or another, more affordable one to get a bit of your fix). If you realize it wasn't that beach but the idea of beaches, your long-term one could be to visit all the best beaches in the Caribbean.

And helping animals? For any charitable passion, you could have short-term goals of volunteering or donating what you can. A long-term goal could be turning it into a career or using your retirement to volunteer or advocate full time.

### 4. Talk to Those Affected by Your List

While this is your list, you should discuss your bucket list ideas with someone you love and trust. This could be a close friend, family member, or partner/spouse.

Sharing your bucket list with others helps keep you accountable. Ask your loved ones to check in on your bucket list progress—and do the same for them if they've created bucket lists of their own!

You'll also want to discuss any items on your list that will require another person (e.g. your spouse) to expend time or money. If you share any items or they overlap enough for compromise, great! If not, that's okay too—see what you can do together and what you can do separately.

### 5. Put in the Work

To make your bucket list ideas become reality, you have to work toward them. While some may say you should set aside time regularly to do this—and there's nothing wrong with that—that may not be feasible for everyone. But, socking away your spare change for a goal and researching your options can be done anytime.

If possible, consider having a particular savings account or certificate of deposit (CD) that you can't withdraw from but will gain interest. You might even opt to automatically deposit a portion of your paycheck into your bucket list investment account.

### 6. Go For It!

When you get to the point where you can go after a bucket list idea, such as earning a certain amount of money, having the kids all be out on their own, or retiring, doubt may sneak in.

This is normal, but don't let it stop you. Buy those plane tickets, sign up for that class, get that car. Of the top [five deathbed regrets](#), three of them related to not living the life people wanted to live. So, make sure you live the life you want.







## 101 Bucket List Ideas

Even knowing how to make a bucket list, you may still feel a bit stumped on what to put on there. We're here to help.

Below are 101 bucket list ideas to get you started. Of course, not every idea will fit your needs or personality, but hopefully they'll inspire you while you create your own bucket list.

### Get in Front of an Audience

1. Perform in a play or musical.
2. Do karaoke.
3. Be a background actor (extra) in a TV show or movie.
4. Get on a game show.
5. Start a podcast, online video channel, or blog.

### Travel Anywhere

1. Visit a location you learned about in school.
2. Fly first class, even if it's a short flight.
3. Visit a city at the time of year they're most famous for, like NYC at New Years or New Orleans for Mardi Gras.
4. Stay in that city you've always dreamed of visiting.
5. Take the midnight train going anywhere (that is, buy a plane or train ticket at the last second to whatever location they're headed next).
6. Take a vacation alone.
7. Close your eyes and point at a map or globe or use Google Earth's "I'm Feeling Lucky" function to find a random place, then go there.
8. Stay overnight in a haunted location.
9. Visit every continent (yes, [even Antarctica!](#)).

### Travel in the U.S.

1. Go to a big sporting event, like the World Series or Super Bowl.
2. See the Aurora Borealis, aka the Northern Lights.
3. Visit [every Smithsonian](#) museum, gallery, and zoo.
4. Attend the [most unique festival](#) you can find in the U.S.
5. Ride a train cross country.
6. [Tour the White House](#).
7. Visit every national park.
8. [Live in an RV](#) or [tricked-out van](#) and take a cross-country roadtrip.





## 101 Bucket List Ideas

### Travel Internationally

1. Attend a [famous festival](#) in another country.
2. Swim in every ocean and major sea.
3. Visit a [UNESCO World Heritage site](#).
4. [Do volunteer work](#) in a third-world country.
5. Visit the [Seven Wonders of the World](#).
6. Backpack across Europe.

### Food Goals

1. Learn to cook your favorite restaurant dish.
2. Conquer a restaurant's [food eating challenge](#).
3. Eat one of the world's [most expensive foods](#)—or perhaps share with a friend.
4. Try a local delicacy in any city or country you visit.
5. Tip 100% or more on a high bill at a restaurant.

### New Skills

1. Master a common skill you don't yet know, like bike riding, swimming, or writing in cursive.
2. Learn to play an instrument or sing.
3. Try horseback riding.
4. Take online or community college classes in something you wanted to study but didn't get to.
5. Learn to say the alphabet backward.
6. Get a high school diploma, GED, degree, or vocational certification.
7. Take a dance class.
8. Ride a type of transportation that scares you, like a helicopter or small plane.
9. Learn to fly a plane, ride a motorcycle, or drive a boat.
10. Take an art class (online or local).

### General Self-Improvement

1. If someone once told you would never be good at something, prove them wrong.
2. Set a world record.
3. Achieve a health or fitness goal (with a doctor's approval and assistance).
4. Try out a new sport or revisit a childhood one.
5. Read a book you only pretended to read back in school.
6. Go "off the grid" for a while.
7. Find and say "thank you" to people from your past, like old teachers, bosses, or friends.
8. Overcome a phobia or fear.
9. Write a book—publishing is optional.
10. Read at least 10 [banned books](#).





## 101 Bucket List Ideas

### Making the World a Bit Better

1. Learn a new language and use it in real life.
2. [Donate blood](#) (and perhaps get on the [bone marrow donor list](#)).
3. Try to [help solve](#) an unsolved crime.
4. Foster an animal.
5. Volunteer at a local charity.
6. Teach a class about something you know a lot about.

### Entertainment Goals

1. Meet a celebrity you respect.
2. Be in the audience of a live TV show taping.
3. Splurge on good seats for a concert, play, opera, or other performance.
4. [Attend a red carpet event](#), like a movie premiere.
5. Go to an awards show.
6. Visit a location where a favorite movie or show was filmed.
7. Attend a convention for something you enjoy, like [Comic-Con](#).
8. [Stage door](#) at a Broadway show.

### Fulfill Youthful Dreams

1. Drive a famous car, even a replica (like the Batmobile).
2. Get a pet you've always wanted.
3. Buy a toy you wanted as a child but never got.
4. Ethically pet an unusual animal, like a sloth or dolphin.
5. Ride a hot air balloon.
6. Go to a theme park you've always wanted to visit (Disneyland, Universal Studios, etc.).

### Financial and Career Goals

1. Buy a home or rent your ideal apartment.
2. Get a brand new (or your dream classic!) car.
3. Reach the highest work position you desire.
4. Negotiate a raise.
5. Insist on a work-life balance. (A significant deathbed regret!)
6. Be invited to speak at an event in your industry.
7. Turn a hobby into a business.
8. Move somewhere you want to live, not somewhere you have to live.
9. Pay off all your debts by a certain age.
10. Retire.
11. [Create your digital death to-do list](#) and complete it.





## 101 Bucket List Ideas

### Very Personal Decisions

1. Officiate a wedding.
2. Get married.
3. Foster a child.
4. Have children (and [secure a guardian](#) for them as part of your estate plan).
5. Host a family reunion.
6. Renew your vows someplace fun and unique.

### Just for Fun

1. Visit a psychic.
2. Go skinny dipping. (Be sure you don't break any laws!)
3. Take a telescope, get away from light pollution, and look at the night sky.
4. Throw your [dream party](#).
5. Wear a costume or formal outfit for no reason—in public.
6. Ride a mechanical bull.
7. Try busking.
8. Safely re-create your favorite [movie moment](#).
9. Go for a haircut or color you want but are nervous about.
10. Get a tattoo.
11. Skydive

### Help Others Fulfill Bucket Lists

Many bucket list items aren't free, and some people may not be able to reach even short-term goals without some assistance. If you're in a position to help others achieve their bucket list dreams through volunteerism or donations, here are a few organizations to check out.

- [Make-A-Wish](#): This group helps critically ill children have their wishes come true.
- [Dream Foundation](#): The foundation helps terminally ill adults fulfill dreams.
- [The Granted Wish Foundation](#): This group grants wishes related to sports and athletics for children and young adults with physical challenges.
- [Second Wind Dreams](#): Focusing solely on making elders' dreams come true, this group reminds us that, no matter what age someone is, it's not too late to finish that bucket list.
- [One Simple Wish](#): Unlike the other organizations that focus on illnesses, this group fulfills the wishes of children in foster care and those who have recently aged out of the system.

### The Takeaway

Creating bucket list goals can help you make the most of the time you have with your loved ones (and yourself). Checking off each one means you're constantly taking steps toward a life well-lived—hopefully one where you can look back without regrets and tell your loved one via your [Future Message](#) all about how much you loved every second of it.

While you're going through your bucket list, make sure you protect all your memories by securing photos and documents with our [digital legacy service](#).







## HOW TO

# Preplan Your Funeral Step-By-Step | GoodTrust

### Why preplan your funeral?

It sounds morbid but it can be incredibly important and save others the time-consuming effort. There are usually two types of funeral preplanning: unfunded planning that incorporates only information about the funeral event without funds put aside to pay for it, and pre-funded planning, which accounts for services and assets engaged upon by the funeral home.

For various reasons you may decide to preplan funeral arrangements in order to achieve someone's wishes, will, and directives before passing away. In addition, it may relieve some of the mental, emotional and financial pressures from families following someone's death.

### How to preplan your funeral?

Once you decide to preplan your funeral, there are four primary considerations:

**1. Will and testament:** As a first step, acknowledge your family and loved ones about your will (get started with the free will tool from GoodTrust). Inheritance issues may sometimes occur after passing away and even test family bonds. Make sure to clearly explain to your family your will regarding the heritage and other specified wishes when you are alive.

**2. Funeral directives:** In your funeral plan, you may have medical and funeral directives. Be sure to share your wishes regarding your funeral whether it will be followed by burial or cremation. What about the location? Include the way you want to announce your death, what will be included in the announcement, the date of your funeral and other specifics around your funeral and memorial.

**3. Service manager:** Choose your funeral director, agree about the funeral details and how it will be arranged. If needed, your funeral manager may also advise you and suggest recommendations. They might even help you choose the right music or readings.

**4. Funeral ceremony and memorial service:** Acknowledge the details regarding the funeral ceremony and specifics around your funeral and memorial. In case you hire a service manager, establish clear tasks of your family members to avoid overlap and interference with the funeral agency.

### The Funeral Day: Quick Tips To Consider in Your Funeral Plan

The funeral day is mostly the biggest day after your death. Here are six tips you may consider while making your plan:





1. Specify type of service: Choose either a traditional funeral that is followed by burial and includes a casket (open or closed) or a memorial service that expects a gathering or service without the casket. If you wish for a funeral followed by cremation you should also mention it.
2. It's important to personalize your wishes and make your funeral an unforgettable memory; think of flowers, music, words, etc.
3. Set up a date (think of the period after your death) and a final rest where you wish to be buried. Such information gives time to the ceremony attendees to prepare for their arrival. You can also prepare a list of commemorative event attendees.
4. Estimate the financial costs, the payment of your funeral and final expense insurance. As such, your family members will not be in a trouble regarding the funeral costs (remains transport, a casket, grave maker, etc.).
5. Make clear your will, living will, Power of Attorney, and any other advanced directives and transmit them to your family to specify both unfunded and pre-funder wishes.
6. Specify who will be the main contact of the funeral home. This helps to arrange the funeral correctly.

#### **Have you thought about your digital assets?**

With the advancement of technology, people think more and more about the digital afterlife and what will happen to their digital assets after passing away. When you make your funeral plan think about how your Facebook friends would interact with your profile after your death. Or what would be the end of your company's websites and all the social media pages related to it? Would you also want to include a livestream of the funeral?

Nowadays, **digital legacy services can easily** do the job and take care of all your digital assets. These platforms suggest options to securely manage your online afterlife, enable you to preserve your valuable memories and assure they are properly managed according to your wishes (for example, check out GoodTrust Memories).

#### **Don't forget someone's digital legacy**

In your funeral plan, be sure to provide specific instructions regarding what happens to your social media accounts once you pass away. For example, you can decide to delete your Twitter or Instagram accounts, memorialize them or even extract its data (e.g. photos). Here are quick steps to control your digital legacy before you pass away.

What about an option to send a message to your loved ones after passing away and share best wishes or greetings? That's now possible when you preplan your funeral with GoodTrust Future Messages. Imagine your daughter receives your birthday wishes five years after you have passed away - think of it as a bittersweet surprise.

*GoodTrust can help you take care of anyone's end-of-life needs. Learn more about how to take care of someone else by [clicking here](#).*





## HOW TO

# Create Your Free Will In 7 Easy Steps

Before you get started, you may want to gather your thoughts and assemble some documents. Once you're ready, click [here](#) to begin.

For now, here's a little will-creation prep checklist for you to follow:

### Take Note of Your People

1. Who will be your executors?
2. Who will be your beneficiaries?
3. Who will take care of your children?
4. Who will take care of your pets?
5. Who will you pick to handle your online accounts?

### Take Note of Your Personal Property and Remaining Estate

1. Understand the scope of what assets are
2. Determine your assets
3. Determine which assets you want to include in your will
  - *Property: Home, Car, Real Estate*
  - *Bank Accounts*
  - *Social Media Accounts*
  - *Life Insurance*
  - *Family Heirlooms and Cherished Sentimental Personal Items*

### Take Note of Who Will Receive Your Property and Estate

1. How will you divide your estate between your loved ones?
2. Who will receive what?

*Advice: be specific and precise when allocating percentages of your remaining estate!*



## Take Note of Your Other Documents

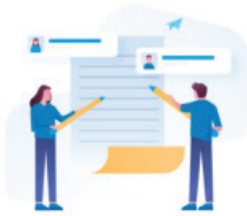
1. Will you need a medical directive (living will)?
2. Will you need a funeral directive?
3. Will you need a Durable Power of Attorney?

**Once you have done some basic prep, filling in the blanks of your will should only take you 15 minutes - or less!**

Ready to get started now? [Click here to begin your GoodTrust will.](#)

We all know what a will basically consists of: your last wishes, your property, your loved ones ([including guardianship of your children](#)), but what are the specifics of creating a will and how can you personalize it to include all of the particular needs of you and your loved ones?

Below is a step-by-step process to create your will with GoodTrust. We'll also soon be launching other end-of-life planning documents including Medical and Funeral Directives (including Living Will), and Durable Power of Attorney. Within your GoodTrust profile you can also manage what happens to your online accounts, create emotional memories like [Future Messages](#), generate photo animations with [GoodTrust Memories](#), and more.



### 01. FILL OUT ONLINE IN 15 MINUTES

We will guide you how to easily fill out your will online. It takes less than 15 minutes to get your last will and testament done.



### 02. PRINT IT OUT & SIGN IT

The information you provide is combined with the precise language of our legal forms and provided back to you as a printable will.



### 03. UPLOAD IT, STORE IT AND SHARE IT

Last step is to upload and store it in Docs & Notes in your GoodTrust account. You should also want to share it with a Trusted Contact.

### LOOKING FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN A WILL?



2 min

#### Afterlife accounts

Specify who gets access to your online accounts after you pass away.

[Add accounts](#)



8 min

#### Funeral Directive

Cremation or burial? Which music? Go out in style but make it clear.

[Start now](#)



5 min

#### Medical Directive

Make clear your preferences with major healthcare decisions.

[Start now](#)



NEW

#### Durable POA

Grant someone legal authority even when you're incapacitated.

[Start now](#)

[Start creating your will](#)





## The 7 Easy Steps To Create Your GoodTrust Will

1. About You
2. Your Family
3. Executors
4. Personal Property
5. Remaining Estate
6. Witnesses
7. Review

### 1. About You

The initial **About You** section is where you add your basic information such as your name, your address, your phone number, your birthday, and more. In this section, the will tool gets a sense of who you are before going on to store data about your family and your needs.

This is your will. Let's start with you.

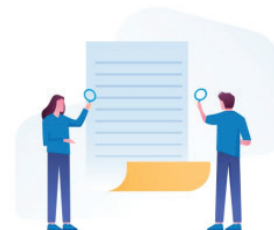
#### Your basic details



Name Melinda	Surname Anderson
Email m.anderson@gmail.com	

We will create a free GoodTrust account for you so you can always access edit and download your will.

Save & continue





This is your story - start filling in the chapters.



Birth date

Month

▼

Day

▼

Year

▼

Phone number



Phone number

Address



Street

Once you have provided your initial information, you will progress to the **Your Family** portion on your will creation flow, in which you will provide details on your family members, general familial situation, and your wishes.

## 2. Your Family

This section allows you to clearly state who your spouse may be, if you have any children, if you have any pets and how you wish for them to be cared for.

You're on your way! Now, your family.

What is your marital status?



☒ Single ☐ Married ☐ Domestic Partnership

Do you have any children?



☐ Yes  
☒ No

Do you have a pet?



☐ Yes  
☒ No

Save & exit

Save & continue





GoodTrust makes it simple for you to indicate the guardian of your children under the age of 18 as well as that of your pets. In the event that you may not have potential guardians for your pets, GoodTrust offers alternative options including appointing a Humane Society. We also make it easy for you to link your loved ones including your chosen guardians by providing their email addresses (if applicable).

Further, GoodTrust gives you the ability to [share important documents](#) before or after you pass away to facilitate the difficult time and ensure your loved ones have access to all the important information they need.

### Do you have any children?



☒ Yes

☐ No

#### 1. CHILD

First Name

Last Name

E-mail address (optional)

[+ Click to add children](#)

### Are any of your children under the age of 18?



☒ Yes

☐ No

### In order of preference, what is the full legal name of the person you'd like to be responsible for taking care of your children under the age of 18 if you pass away?



By default, the other parent of your children will be the first choice. If you do not want to designate the other parent as their guardian, we recommend that you see a qualified attorney in your state.

#### DEFAULT GUARDIAN

Default guardian  
The other parent of my children

#### GUARDIAN OF SECOND CHOICE



Full Name

Select relation to you

E-mail address

[+ Click to add another guardian](#)





### 3. Executors

Once you have confidently provided all valuable information regarding your immediate family and your guardianship wishes, you will progress to the **Executors** portion of the will creation flow, in which you will indicate who you chose to be responsible to enact your will in the event of your passing ([read more about how to choose the right person](#)). Executors are highly important as they are the ones to carry out the terms you set in your will. Your Executors should be close loved ones that you trust to handle your matters as you indicated after your passing.


*Please note, throughout the will creation process, GoodTrust provides you with insightful assistance and suggestions in the bottom right corner of the page you are on. For example, you can even use GoodTrust [Future Messages](#) to record your wishes on video and schedule it to be shared after you pass away. By combining the physical and the digital aspects, you could hold up cherished heirlooms and tell the stories associated with them.*

## Nearly halfway there! Now to the Executors.




Who will carry out the terms of your Will? 


MAIN EXECUTOR

Full Name	Select relation to you 
E-mail address	

[+ Click to add another executor](#)

By default, your estate's executor will also serve as your digital executor.   
Would you like to nominate someone else to act as your digital executor instead?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No, my digital executor is the same as main executor

Would you like your digital executor to have access to the contents of your electronic communications (GoodTrust account, E-mail, Texts, WhatsApp etc.)? 

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Save & exit

Save & continue



**TIP: SHARE A LAST GOODBYE MESSAGE WITH YOUR LOVED ONES?**

GoodTrust enables you to send future messages after you passed away.





## 4. Personal Property

Now, on to **Personal Property**! This halfway point marks the completion of your family and personal details and the beginning of the material portion of the will creation process. It is important to note that you may save your progress and return to complete or finalize your documents at any time. To assure a smooth process to completion, GoodTrust starts with the big questions then funnels them down to the specifics.

Personal Property covers everything from gifts you want to leave for your loved ones to stocks and bonds, potential non-governmental organizations donations, and more. This section precedes the Residual Estate section in which you indicate who is to inherit the remainder of your estate and property.

### Almost finished. Now your personal property.

Will specific gifts of personal property be left to certain people? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☒ No

Will stocks & shares or trading accounts be left to any specific people? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☒ No

Will a donation to a nonprofit organization be made? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☒ No

Do beneficiaries need to survive the testator by a certain number of days in order to qualify as a beneficiary? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☒ No

Do you have an active life insurance plan? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☒ No

Save & exit

Save & continue



**TIP: CAN YOUR LOVED ONE CAN ACCESS YOUR PHONE AND PC?**

GoodTrust enables you to share your phone and PC passcode after you passed away.




## 5. Remaining Estate

Once you have completed the previous section, you will be directed to complete the **Remaining Estate** section which enables you to split up what is left after your Personal Property allocation between one or more beneficiaries. You may choose to allocate specific percentages to specific beneficiaries as well as indicate who should inherit should your chosen beneficiary not survive you. GoodTrust keeps track of how much of your estate and property you have allocated to help you make sure you are not over or under allocating.

Leave nothing to chance - the people you love will be grateful.




Who will inherit your residual estate when you pass away? 

### 1. BENEFICIARY

Name <b>Berenika</b>	Select relation to you <b>Podzemska</b>
Allocation in % <b>90%</b>	
The division of your residual estate must add up to 100% between beneficiaries.	
E-mail <b>berenika.podzemska@gmail.com</b>	

### 2. BENEFICIARY

Name <b>Berenika</b>	Select relation to you <b>Podzemska</b>
Allocation in % <b>10%</b>	
E-mail <b>berenika.podzemska@gmail.com</b>	

-  100% of residual estate is allocated
-  10% of residual estate is over allocated
- 1% of residual estate needs to be allocated

[+ Click to add beneficiary](#)






## 6. Witnesses

Last but absolutely not least, you will be prompted to loop in your **Witnesses**. Please note: after printing it, you will need two witnesses to sign your will in order to validate it.

You've got this! An important last step: witnesses.



Do you already know who will be your two witnesses signing your will? 

☒ Yes

☐ No


1. WITNESS

Name Berenika Podzemska	Select relation to you Mother
E-mail berenika.podzemska@gmail.com	
Country code CZ	Phone

2. WITNESS

Name Berenika Podzemska	Select relation to you Mother
E-mail berenika.podzemska@gmail.com	
Country code CZ	Phone

[+ Add another witness](#)

Do you have lawyer who can help you with your will, if you have questions? 

☐ Yes

☒ No

Save & exit

Save & continue



**TIP: SHARE ONLINE ACCOUNTS AND DOCUMENTS WITH FAMILY ALREADY TODAY?**

GoodTrust enables you to get organized and share accounts and documents today.









## 7. Review

Once you have completed the Will Creation process, you will be invited to **Review** all submitted information for accuracy before downloading your document, uploading it to [Docs & Notes](#), and exploring the other features GoodTrust has to offer. We highly recommend sharing your will and other documents you may create with your [Trusted Contacts](#) (e.g. family members and loved ones).

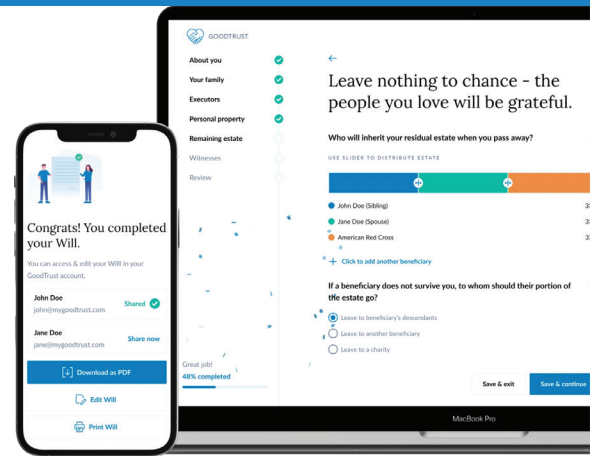
In the near future we will also offer Durable Power of Attorney, Medical and Funeral Directives (e.g. Living Will), as well as safeguarding any of your online accounts. Accounts that GoodTrust can help you with include, but are not limited to, social media accounts, bank accounts, and subscription-based ones.

### 3. DO MORE WITH GOODTRUST

 <b>Will</b> A wonderful act of selflessness to make sure your loved ones are safe.  <b>Completed</b>	 8 min <b>Afterlife accounts</b> Specify who gets access to your online accounts after you pass away. <a href="#">Start now</a>	 5 min <b>Medical Directive</b> Make clear your preferences with major healthcare decisions. <a href="#">Start now</a>	 8 min <b>Funeral Directive</b> Cremation or burial? Which music? Go out in style but make it clear. <a href="#">Start now</a>	 <b>NEW</b> <b>Durable POA</b> Grant someone legal authority even when you're incapacitated. <a href="#">Start now</a>
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And that's it. After following all these steps you'd be done. ***Don't delay - start your will today!***  
[Click here to begin.](#)





## LAST WILL BY GOODTRUST

# Create your Last Will in 15 minutes (or less!)

In the time it takes to catch up on the news, you can ensure your children are taken care of, your life's assets are shared with loved ones, and your precise wishes are carried out. Developed in consultation with top legal experts, you can customize your Will to address your specific needs. Get started for free today!

Create Will

## YOUR ESTATE PLANNING SUITE OF TOOLS



15 min

### Last Will

Create your Last Will in less than 15 min.

[Start Now](#)



8 min

### Funeral Directive

Cremation, burial? Which music? Go out in style.

[Learn more](#)



8 min

### Power of Attorney

Grant someone legal authority of your affairs.

[Learn more](#)



8 min

### Health Care Directive

Get the care you want if you become incapacitated.

[Learn more](#)



10 min

### Pet Directive

Make sure your pet is safe after you pass away.

[Learn more](#)





## How to Create a Will With GoodTrust.

[→ Create Will](#)



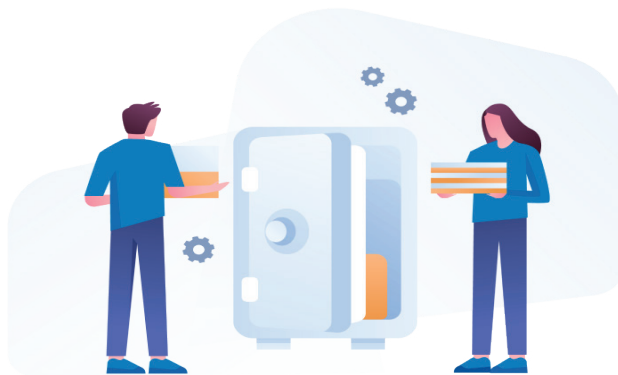
### 01. FILL OUT YOUR WILL ONLINE

We will guide you through how to easily fill out your will online. It takes less than 15 minutes to get your last will and testament done.



### 02. PRINT IT OUT & SIGN IT

The information you provide is combined with the precise language of our attorney-crafted legal forms. After printing it, you will need two witnesses to sign as well.



### 03. UPLOAD IT, STORE IT AND SHARE IT.

The last step is to upload it to Docs & Notes in your GoodTrust account and share it with a Trusted Contact. This is a vital step to keep your will safe.





## Why do I need a Will?

Once you have completed the previous section, you will be directed to complete the **Remaining Estate** No matter your age, wealth, or health, you should have a will. Without the right documentation, the courts decide what happens to your assets—and more importantly, the pets, children, and adults in your care. Children can end up in foster care if the court doesn't deem anyone acceptable or no one volunteers, and pets can end up in shelters.

Unlike spouses, long-term partners generally don't have automatic legal rights to anything not also in their names. Assets don't need to be financially valuable—sentimentality matters. This is part of why it's crucial to create a will, no matter how old you are. Life and death are unpredictable, and you probably know who would want certain belongings and pets.

### DID YOU KNOW?

You and your spouse need separate wills. Even if the information is identical, you cannot have a joint will.



## Create Will



## Create last will and testament while protecting your digital legacy.

With GoodTrust, you can create your will and protect your [digital legacy](#). But what exactly does this all mean?



### DIGITAL LEGACY

Your digital legacy includes all of your online accounts, media, documents, and information. You can assign a digital executor to carry out your last wishes as they pertain to your digital death and digital afterlife.



### LAST WILL

A will, also called a last will and testament, is a legal document regarding what you've planned for your estate. This includes what happens to your property, money, and, if relevant, children, adults under your care, and pets upon your death. The free will feature also includes plans for your digital legacy.



### UPLOAD IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

With GoodTrust, you can upload and protect important documents like your will, advance healthcare directive and funeral directive so they are secure and only accessible by your Trusted Contact or Durable Power or Attorney.

## Frequently Asked Questions About Last Will

### + What makes a Will legal?

Laws regarding creating Wills vary by state. However, in general, the following must be true:

- You must be a legal adult of sound mind.
- You must sign the Will. This can occur even if you're on your deathbed, so long as you're of sound mind and have witnesses.
- You must have two adult witnesses of sound mind sign the Will unless you live in Vermont, which requires three witnesses. These witnesses can't be in the Will to avoid bias or coercion.

### + What should you put in your Will?

Your Will should include at least the following:

- The name of your executor and digital executor
- Who will inherit all significant assets (sentimental or expensive)
- Who will inherit your home
- The names of those who will become guardians of children, adults in your care, or pets
- Any gifts or donations you would like to leave to charities
- What will happen to any investments you have
- The names of those who will manage children's inheritances until they're adults





+ Can I have a digital Will?

You can create a Will and store it digitally, but at this time, many states don't allow digital signatures on Wills. This is why you must print your Will and have them signed by hand.

A framework called the Electronic Wills Act is making its way through the national court system, which may make fully digital Wills possible nationwide in the future.

+ Is a Living Will the same as a Will?

A Living Will is different from a Will. A Living Will focuses on what should be done if you become terminally ill or incapacitated, while a Legal Will and testament details what should be done with your estate upon your death.

+ Do you have to have a lawyer to make a Will?

You don't need a lawyer to create a Will but it never hurts to have a lawyer review your documents.

+ What is an executor?

An executor is an adult of sound mind who ensures your Will is followed. They round up all of your information, pay any taxes or debts on your behalf (preferably using your life insurance or other assets), sell property if needed, and get inheritances to the beneficiaries.

Your executor can be a beneficiary in your Will, or they can be an unbiased third party.

+ Are DIY Wills legal?

DIY Wills are legal. If you have a highly complicated set of requirements or a difficult family situation, it may be best to consult with a lawyer to help you get through the relevant challenges.

Online Wills are typically accepted so long as they've been printed and signed by hand.

Handwritten (holographic) Wills, however, are frequently rejected—even if you have witnesses.

GoodTrust's Legal Will and testaments are typed.

+ What are last wishes?

Last wishes, also called final wishes, are usually separate from your Will and focus on what you want to be done upon your death. These can be written or verbal, though they're easier to prove to others if written.

These are generally not legally binding, unlike your Will; that said, if family members largely agree to your wishes, your executor should agree to carry them out because it's simply the right thing to do.





+ How do I write my last wish?

You can handwrite or type your last wishes and upload them to GoodTrust. You can put just about anything in your list of final wishes, including:

- Whether you're an organ donor
- Obituary information
- Your desired final resting place
- Whether you've created Future Messages and how people can locate them

You can also include your funeral plans in your last wishes, but a separate document may be easier to follow.

+ Can I plan my own funeral?

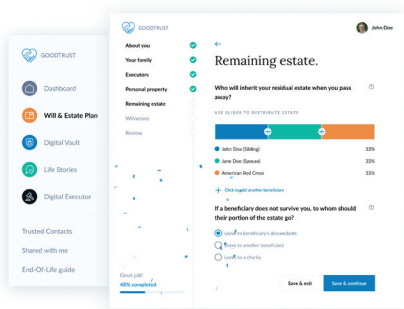
You can plan your own funeral via a funeral directive or as part of your list of last wishes, but the document isn't legally binding. While your family and friends may have the best intentions in honoring your funeral plans, some things may not be possible to arrange. For instance, a pallbearer you request may be unable to attend, or the place you want your ashes scattered may be off-limits for this.

[Read more FAQs](#)



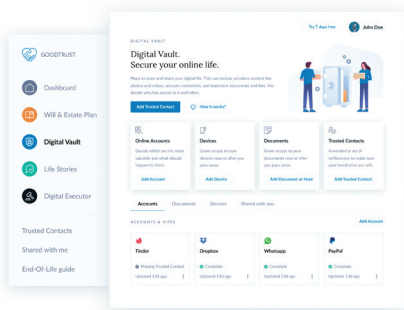


# Protect what matters. Today.



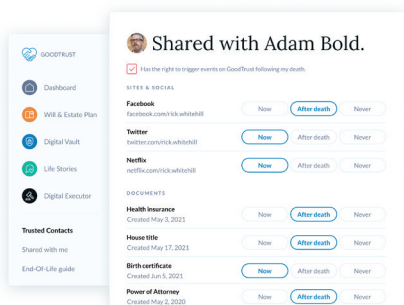
## WILL & ESTATE PLAN

Create attorney-backed Last Will and Directives. Even take care of your Durable Financial Power of Attorney.



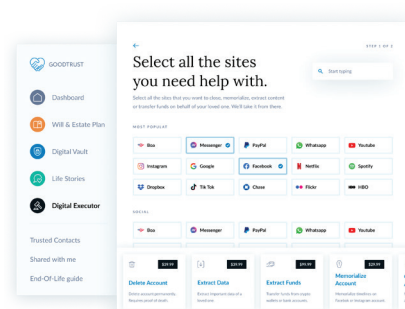
## DIGITAL PROTECTION & VAULT

Organize and share your passwords, device codes, online accounts, documents, and more in a secure manner.



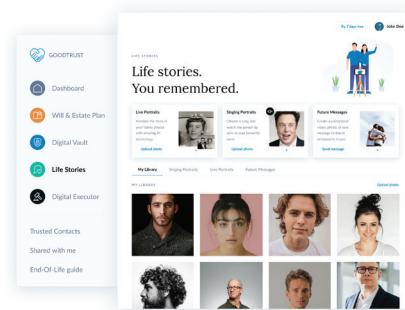
## TRUSTED & LEGACY CONTACTS

Add a Trusted Contact to your profile to safely transfer valuable information.



## DIGITAL EXECUTOR

Help anyone take care of memorializing or deleting social media and obtain priceless content.



## LIFE STORIES

Bring photos to life with animated or singing portraits to preserve memories that matter.



## Your information is safe.

We're using the AES-256 encryption method. It's the only cipher approved by the U.S. National Security Agency for top-secret information. The only way to break our security would be by a brute force attack. This means a computer has to try every possible combination of 64 characters one after another. Deciphering a single AES-256 code would take longer than the universe exists. Simply put, your data is safe. And remember: we store our data here too.



[More about security at GoodTrust](#)



## There's no time like the present to protect the people you love.

GoodTrust can help you create your will, write your funeral and medical directives, and prepare for your digital afterlife, all steps included in our end-of-life planning guide. We'll deliver all the information to the right people today or when you pass away, whichever you prefer. Create your will for free in just minutes and store the legally valid version in your GoodTrust account.



[Create Will](#)





## HOW TO

# Advance Directive: How to Create One | GoodTrust

A “bucket list” is a list of things you want to do before dying. The phrase is so common it’s almost cliché, but believe it or not, it’s a relatively new saying. In 2007, the movie *The Bucket List*, in which Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman played two cancer patients living their best lives until they “kicked the bucket.”

Today, the meaning has expanded to encompass goals people want to achieve by certain ages or other milestones. So, whether you’re five or 95 years old, sick or healthy, it’s never a wrong time to create a bucket list.

But, where to start? And what should go on it?

Let’s dig into those questions.

## Guide to Advance Directives: Types, How to Create, and Tips

While we typically think of estate planning as only involving things that will happen after your death, advance directives are an essential part of end-of-life planning as well.

Advance directives help your loved ones make major decisions regarding your medical care while you’re still alive, and allow you to communicate your desires if you can’t do so on your own. Read on to learn more about:

- What an advance directive is
- The types of advanced directives
- How to determine what to include
- How to change your advance directive





## What Is an Advance Directive?

An advance health care directive (sometimes called a medical directive - [create yours with GoodTrust here](#)) spells out your medical wishes for end-of-life care. Advance directives are used in life-or-death situations where you're unable to communicate your wishes in the moment or are no longer capable of understanding the gravity of your decisions.

The [1990 Patient Self-Determination Act](#) (PSDA)

requires healthcare facilities to ensure patients understand their states' healthcare laws, ask if they have advance directives, and not discriminate based on whether or not someone has an advance directive.

Physicians usually follow advance directives; however, they aren't required to do so in every circumstance. If a request goes against best practices, their facility's policies, or their consciences, they may opt not to follow it.

When this occurs, they're required to tell you or a designated representative the moment they've made this decision. If possible, they should help you transfer to a facility where your medical directive will be honored.

That said, it's typically in the practitioner's best interest to follow your advance directive. Following your wishes provides the healthcare provider with immunity if injury or death occurs because of your directive.

## What Is Not Included in Advance Directives?

Your advance directives only involves medical requests. Anything related to your home life (including [guardianship of children](#)) or finances is handled through other means.



## Types of Advance Directives

“Advance directive” is a catch-all term for any document detailing what medical care you want if you’re unable to communicate your wishes anymore.

There are several types of medical advance directives, including living wills, powers of attorney, and POLSTs.



### LIVING WILL

Includes your medical wishes while you are still alive, as well as what you want to happen to your body upon death.

### MEDICAL POA OR DURABLE POA FOR HEALTH CARE

Select someone to make medical decisions on your behalf if you become incapacitated or are too sick to make them yourself. If you don't have a living will, your medical POA may make all medical decisions on your behalf.

### PHYSICIANS ORDERS FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT (POLST)

Work with your doctor to make decisions about CPR, tube feeding, and desired treatments (e.g. full, selective, or comfort-focused).



## Living Will

Whether you want every effort made to save your life, live the rest of your days in peace with little intervention, not be resuscitated, or anything in between, you can make your desires known in a living will.

Your living will should also include what you want to happen to your body upon your death. This is especially important if you're an organ donor, as your body should be alive until your team locates recipients.

A living will differs from a last will and testament because it only considers what your medical wishes are *while you're still alive*. When you [create a last will and testament](#), you declare everything you want to happen with your estate and those in your care *upon your death*.

## Medical POA or Durable POA for Health Care

Power of Attorney (POA) allows a person you select to take action and make decisions on your behalf if you're unable to do so.

If you grant someone POA but not durable POA, they're allowed to make decisions for you unless you become incapacitated.

On the other hand, durable POA allows your designated person to make decisions if you can't speak for yourself. As far as advance directives go, you'll likely grant someone durable POA in case you can't make healthcare decisions for yourself.

By granting someone durable medical power of attorney (also referred to as durable power of attorney for health care), you're selecting them to make medical decisions on your behalf if you become incapacitated or are too sick to make them yourself.

If you don't have a living will, your medical POA may make all medical decisions on your behalf.







## Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST)

Creating your Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) advance directive is a joint effort between you and your medical practitioner. With your doctor's assistance, you make the following decisions:

### Decision 1:

*Do you want CPR?*

- **Yes:** In this case, CPR also includes ventilation, defibrillation, and cardioversion.
- **No:** This is the same as having a DNR (do not resuscitate).

### Decision 2:

*What are your goals? What treatments do you want?*

- **Full Treatments:**  
All treatments are allowed, including surgery and intensive care. You may not say "yes" to full treatments and "no" to CPR.
- **Selective Treatments:**  
Practitioners may perform life-saving or prolonging treatments, such as IV fluids, antibiotics, and non-invasive airway treatments.
- **Comfort-Focused Treatments:**  
Allows for natural death with minimal interventions, which should only provide comfort.

### Decision 3:

*Do you want tube feeding (medically assisted nutrition)?*

- **Yes, Option 1:** Use surgically placed tubes to provide nutrition.
- **Yes, Option 2:** Attempt artificial nutrition without surgical tubes.
- **No:** No attempted artificial nutrition.
- **Not Discussed or Undecided:** Whatever best fits within your previous decisions will occur.

National POLST offers a [standardized form](#) you can fill out with your practitioner, though [your state](#) may have a preferred version. In most cases, your POLST will be honored in other states.

Once your POLST is complete, your doctor must sign off on it. Ensure your entire medical team has copies.

Keep additional copies in your home, with select loved ones, and for utmost security and accessibility, upload a copy to a [digital legacy service](#).





## What to Include in an Advance Directive

When deciding what to include in an advance directive, there are five questions you should ask yourself:

### 1. Why Do I Want an Advance Directive?

Knowing why you want an advance directive can help you determine what type(s) you need.

There are many reasons to make an advance directive, including:

- Wanting to take some stress off of those you love if you become incapacitated
- Having a chronic illness that could result in incapacitation
- Having a terminal illness
- Having strong beliefs about end-of-life issues, especially if they conflict with those of the people around you
- Your family may not always get along well, and you want to ensure your wishes are met and to alleviate drama

Knowing why you want your advance directive can help you determine which kind(s) you want, who gets durable medical POA, and how explicit you must be in your wishes.

### 2. Who Do I Want Making Medical Decisions for Me?

When considering potential people to oversee your medical care if you're incapacitated, you need to think about two things:

1. Who is emotionally capable of carrying out my wishes?
2. Who will advocate for me with doctors, family members, and others?

When you discuss this topic with your choice for durable medical POA, allow them to say no. It doesn't mean they don't love you; it means they're not the right person for the job.

Consider having a backup listed in case your primary choice is unable to carry out their duties.





### 3. What Treatments Am I Comfortable With?

Talk through different types of life-saving, life-lengthening, and palliative treatments with your doctor. This can help you make informed decisions when creating your medical directive.

Your beliefs, religious or otherwise, also play a role in your end-of-life care. If you don't have an advance directive, people who don't share, know, or understand your beliefs may make decisions for you.

No matter what influences your decisions, make your advance directive as explicit as possible.

### 4. What Healthcare Facilities and Practitioners Do I Want Involved?

You can often request your preferred doctor, hospital, or hospice facility. Barring emergencies or situations where your preferred providers can't offer your care, this portion of your directive should be easy to follow.

### 5. When Do I Want Treatments to Stop?

Many advance directives allow you to determine when you would like all treatments to stop via a quality-of-life statement.

When creating your statement, work with a doctor or lawyer to ensure your wording is precise.

A quality-of-life statement can include:

- Your definition of "bad quality of life" – i.e. what symptoms or conditions would you not want life-extending treatment for?
- Timing around continued treatment (e.g. End treatment if I have been in a vegetative coma for more than five years.)
- Specifics on use of CPR, feeding tubes, and ventilators
- Preferences around death. Where and with whom would you like to take your last breaths?

Here's a [sample quality-of-life statement](#) for reference.





## How to Create an Advance Directive

“Advance directive” is a catch-all term for all paperwork involving end-of-life care. Here are the basic steps to creating most medical directives:

1. Make a list of your wishes.
2. Talk to your choice(s) for durable medical POA. Confirm they are willing to take on the task.
3. Designate a durable medical POA and spell out your wishes as required by your state.  
You can find advance directive forms on the for this step.
4. Create a POLST with your doctor.
5. Show your complete advance directive to a doctor who can tell you if your requests are reasonable.
6. Have your advance directives signed as required by your state (may require notarization).
7. Print off several copies of your advance directive forms, providing them to your medical team and anyone with POA.
8. Secure your documents by uploading them to your digital legacy account.
9. Put an advance directive copy in your wallet so practitioners can get a copy.

With GoodTrust, you can create a medical directive online in minutes. [Click here](#) if you're ready to get started.

## Make Changes to Your Advance Directives

You can change your advance directive whenever you want. Some common reasons for changing it include:

- New diagnosis
- Your overall health has declined
- Divorce, death of a spouse, or marriage
- POA replacement
- You're moving to a new state and need to fill out their required paperwork
- Ten years have passed (the recommended amount of time between reviews)

There isn't one set of steps for changing your advance directives; rules vary by state and type of directive. However, in all cases, you should:

- Ensure the person with medical POA knows you've made changes.
- Give copies of the new medical directive to all relevant parties and practitioners.
- Upload a new version to your digital legacy platform.
- Make sure all copies of the old advance directive are destroyed.





## Ensure You Get the Medical Care You Want

Advance directives, also called medical directives, are an integral piece of estate planning.

Whether you choose to use a living will, durable medical POA, POLST, or a combination, having an advance directive can leave you with peace of mind and your loved ones with a plan if you can't make decisions for yourself.

You can help others carry out your wishes by ensuring all your estate planning and other [digital afterlife](#) documents are in one easy-to-find place, such as a GoodTrust profile.

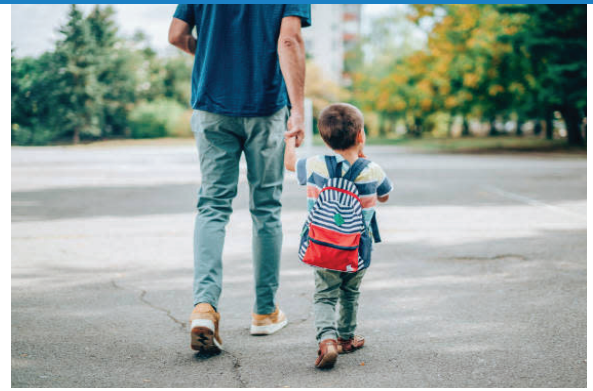
Our free tier allows you to store up to three vital documents, including your advance directive and will. However, you can fill out your medical directive directly on the site and secure unlimited documents online at our premium and lifetime levels.

[Set up your GoodTrust account](#) today and give our premium tier a try for free for 30 days.





## How To Decide Guardianship In A Will



### What is guardianship?

Guardianship is usually added to a will of people that have children under the age of 18 who are minors. Guardianship is added to the will in case of emergencies, which no one likes to think about but need to be considered. By declaring guardianship in a will, parents get to decide who takes responsibility for the children, instead of the court.

If one of the parents outlives the other one, then the guardianship automatically transfers to the one parent. In case of the passing of both parents, the assigned person takes over complete guardianship of the children. Until the children turn 18, the guardian takes responsibility for their health, welfare, education and basic needs like shelter, food, etc. The guardian is not obligated to financially support the child, and therefore the executor of the will should fairly assign financial assets to the guardian.

If you don't name a legal guardian in your will and your child is left without parents, the court determines who takes over guardianship of your child. This decision is typically made in one of two ways:

1. Someone steps forward and offers to care for the child. Then, the court determines if this arrangement is acceptable.

2. The court appoints a family member (who must agree to the setup), regardless of how positive your and your child's relationship is with them. This often defaults to a surviving parent, but there are exceptions.

If a child 14 years or older (in most states) has a preference and no legal guardian has been chosen, the courts tend to err on the side of the child's preference, if possible. They may also consider the child's wishes even if they conflict with your will.

In cases where no one agrees to or is deemed capable of guardianship of your child, your child may be placed in foster care.







## 9 Steps For Choosing a Legal Guardian for Your Child

Choosing a legal guardian isn't easy, but it's important and should be done as early as possible. No matter how young and healthy you are, accidents and unexpected illnesses can occur at any time.

When deciding who your child's guardian should be, here are nine things to keep in mind.

### 1. Whether the Courts Will Approve

Courts can opt to refuse guardianship of a child, even if a guardian is named in your will. Typically, the courts require the guardian to:

- Be a legal adult
- Have the time to raise a child
- Be physically capable of parenting
- Have the income to effectively raise a child, whether on their own or in conjunction with money you leave specifically for your child's care

Many of these requirements have gray areas. Therefore, including a letter explaining how you chose your child's guardian can be helpful (more on that later).

### 2. Parenting Skills

If your potential guardian has children, consider how you feel about their parenting skills; if they don't have children, consider how they interact with and talk about children in general.

You could also consider any training they may have in working with children, such as if they work in education, psychology, or child welfare. While no degree or work history makes someone a perfect parent, these experiences may help.

### 3. Beliefs

When it comes to religious, moral, or ethical beliefs you want your child to be raised with, ensure your potential guardian's beliefs line up with those. If someone is otherwise an ideal candidate and you fully trust them to keep their promises, consider working out an arrangement in writing.

### 4. Financial Stability and Situation

Consider the finances of your child's potential legal guardian. You want to ensure your child is in a stable situation and that caring for your child won't put the guardian in a rough spot.

To be clear: Wealthy people aren't inherently great parents, and people who aren't wealthy aren't inherently terrible parents.

Regardless of a legal guardian's financial situation, consider creating a trust for your child, if possible, as it can help offset costs.

### 5. Current Location and Living Situation

When a child loses their parents, they're already going through a hard time; it may be even harder if they must move to a new school, state, or country.

If your child is on a 504 plan or Individual Education Plan (IEP), discuss it with your chosen guardian. Make sure the details and requirements of the plan are clear.

If your preferred legal guardian lives elsewhere, it's worth discussing if they're willing and able to move to where your child is. For many, this is impossible. So, consider a transition plan. Is there someone nearby with whom your child could stay through the end of the school year?

You may name a legal guardian [who lives in a different country](#), even if they aren't a U.S. citizen, so long as they meet all other requirements. Most lawyers recommend naming an interim or backup guardian, as inter-country guardianship of a child can sometimes take a while.

Additionally, while plenty of people have been happily raised in small homes, consider if the potential guardian's home is large enough to support an additional person.





## 9 Steps For Choosing a Legal Guardian for Your Child *continued*

### 6. Age, Health, and Stage of Life

Though it may seem crass to factor in how old or healthy an otherwise qualified guardian is, you should consider whether you want to risk your child losing another parent-like figure while they're still young.

Additionally, if your chosen person is an empty nester or retiree who loves their current lifestyle, they may not want to rear children at the stage of life they're in. They may say "yes" because they feel obligated, but this doesn't set them or your child up for success.

### 7. Your Children's Wishes

When your child is old enough, talk with them about what legal guardians are and who they would want to care for them if you were gone. Consider giving them a few options of people you're comfortable with and with whom you've already spoken.

Most states let kids have a say in guardianship starting at age 14, regardless of what your will says. So, having this conversation before that age may be wise.

### 8. Will They Take Your Pets?

Your child's guardian isn't required to take your pets. But losing a beloved pet may cause additional trauma for a child.

If a guardian can't take your pets, try to find another person who can take them and will allow your child to visit them.

### 9. If They Want to Be a Guardian for All Your Children—or at All

Before asking someone to be a guardian for your child, no matter how perfect they'd be, ask yourself: Would they agree to it out of obligation? Or would they agree because they *want* to be your child's legal guardian?

Additionally, it's worth considering if this person would want to be a guardian for *all* your children.

While you don't need the same guardian for all your children, if you want your children to stay together, think about whether your preferred guardian could or would take them all.

### How To Make Someone the Legal Guardian of Your Children

When legally assigning a guardian it is important to mention the chosen person in either your will or official guardianship documents. When writing your will, make sure to mention all of the guardians' information and their relationship to you. To make sure you do not miss anything important, it is the easiest to use services with already drafted questions for you to answer. Make sure that if the other parent is alive, they mention the same guardian in their will as well. You can assign a co-guardian, but that often ends in legal problems when the guardians split. Here are a few general steps that always apply in the process:

1. Ask your chosen guardian if they'd be willing to take on this responsibility. You should also speak to a backup guardian, in case your initial choice declines. Don't assume anyone would be willing or able to do this.
2. Put a clause in your will regarding who you want as your child's guardian(s).\*
3. Include an explanation letter in your will explaining your choices.
4. Officialize your will by having the required people (varies by state) sign it.

*\*If there is someone you don't want to get guardianship of your child, include this as well.*

These are not easy questions to ponder but well worth the time in order to make measured and informed decisions. Planning for the unthinkable means less time worrying that you haven't ensured a bright future for your family. And always include an attorney in your process when you can't find the answers elsewhere.





## The Explanation Letter

Step three recommends including a letter explaining how you chose a guardian for your child. While not a requirement, it's advisable.

This letter could help the court better understand why you chose a person (or are refusing custody to a person) based on the criteria above. This includes expressing your child's preferences, even if they're under the age of 14. If your child is very young (i.e. can't talk yet), discuss how positive their relationship is with the chosen guardian.

Explain why the person is, in your opinion, the best option for your child (or why you believe a person's guardianship could be harmful). If you have reason to believe a court may hesitate to agree to your chosen legal guardian, do your best to dispel those fears in detail.

## Making Changes to Legal Guardianship

You may need to change your legal guardian. Thankfully, this process isn't too different from how you added them initially: You need to rewrite your will.

Additional documents are allowed instead of a rewrite but going that route can make the courts or your family question if the information is replacing or adding to the former will.

Rewriting a will to change your choice of your child's legal guardian upon your death (or anything else) looks the same as writing your will for the first time.

The only difference is it needs to state this new will invalidates all previous wills. Triple check the dates on your will before finalizing things.

Many believe that destroying your older wills renders them invalid, but if there are additional copies out there, they can easily be brought into court.

Don't forget to remove your old version of your will from your digital legacy service and replace it with the new one.

Without this testimony or correct dates in your will, family may be able to argue the older version could still be valid—not a risk worth taking, particularly when legal guardianship of your child is involved.

## Assign Guardianship of Your Child Today

Nobody likes to think about it, but death is an inevitable part of life. It can be expected or unpredictable.

As a parent, you need to make sure your child is well cared for, especially if you pass away. Choosing a legal guardian for your child in case of your death as soon as possible ensures they are in good hands.

If you're ready to start the process, use our free will creator to make your wishes known and designate your child's legal guardian today.





## HOW TO

# How To Assign Power of Attorney | GoodTrust



There are many different reasons you might assign someone power of attorney (POA). But do you know what type of POA to assign? And how to legally grant someone POA?

In this article, we'll cover what power of attorney means, the different types of POAs, and steps for choosing and legally assigning someone POA.

When someone is granted power of attorney (POA), they're permitted to make financial and legal decisions on behalf of another person in specific circumstances.

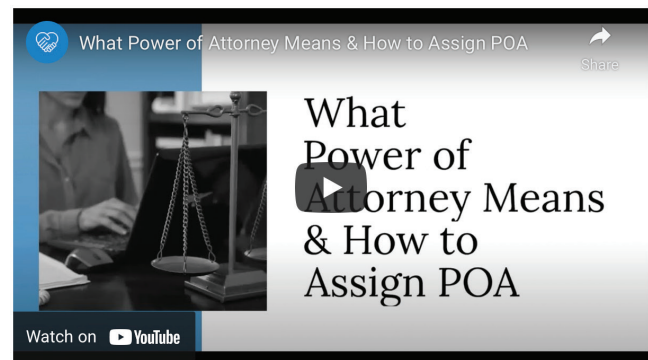
# How To Assign Power of Attorney | GoodTrust

POA is the document's name, while, "agent" or "attorney-in-fact," are the names for the person granted POA.

There are many reasons a person may grant an agent POA, including:

- Health problems that may lead to incapacitation
- Getting a job abroad; the agent handles issues in the U.S.
- Traveling frequently; the agent handles issues in your hometown
- Being deployed
- Working a risky job where incapacitation is possible
- Being a cautious older adult

You could also opt to grant POA if you have statistically risky hobbies, a family history of



unexpected ailments (e.g., heart attacks or strokes), a personal history of illness or addiction, or simply out of an abundance of caution with no extenuating circumstances.

When granting someone POA, you can choose what powers they have and when they can execute them. What they can do and when they can do it is partly determined by the type of agent they are.

**Note:** If you're already deemed incapacitated, you can't



## What Does “Incapacitated” Mean?

Throughout this article, you’re going to see the word “incapacitated.” Regarding POA, “incapacitated” means an inability to make sound decisions, inability to reasonably communicate decisions, or lack of consciousness.

If someone cannot speak but can communicate via writing, and their thoughts are unquestionably clear, they aren’t incapacitated.

## Types of Power of Attorney

Many people don’t realize there is more than one type of power of attorney. So, when considering asking someone to take care of your legal or financial needs, be sure you grant the type you want and ensure that they understand what responsibilities they have.

There are four overarching types of POA:

- General power of attorney
- Financial power of attorney
- Special or limited power of attorney
- Durable power of attorney

We’ll go over each in detail below.

## General Power of Attorney

An agent with general POA can make legal and financial decisions (including signing relevant forms) on your behalf. However, their right to do this stops when you become incapacitated; general POA is not intended for use in end-of-life circumstances.

You may want to grant someone general POA if you’re traveling, or otherwise want someone else to act or make decisions on your own behalf. For example, in California you can assign someone POA to transfer ownership of a vehicle to a new owner on your behalf.

If you want to ensure someone can take care of your decisions if you’re incapacitated, you either need to grant them durable POA or special POA or limited POA. General power of attorney alone won’t allow this.



**GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY**  
Agent can make decisions on your behalf  
unless you become incapacitated.

 **GOODTRUST**  
[www.mygoodtrust.com](http://www.mygoodtrust.com)





## Financial Power of Attorney

Financial POA allows your agent to make financial decisions on your behalf, even if you're not incapacitated. Unlike general power of attorney, your financial agent may not make other legal decisions.

You choose what tasks they can perform, and they may not perform other tasks without obtaining a court order. Rights commonly granted to agents with financial POA include:

- Paying your bills
- Closing or pausing accounts that aren't strictly necessary (e.g., streaming services)
- Running your business
- Managing current investments or making new ones
- Hiring legal representation for you
- Managing your property (including buying and selling homes, cars, etc.)
- Handling your bank account or other assets



### FINANCIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

Agent can only make financial decisions on your behalf. They may be able to make decisions while you're incapacitated, depending on the terms spelled out in your POA form.



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You may opt to only allow them certain rights if you're not incapacitated and expand their rights if certain events occur.

## Special or Limited Power of Attorney



### SPECIAL OR LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY

Agent can make certain monetary or legal decisions on your behalf under very specific circumstances as long as you are not incapacitated.



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Special power of attorney, also called limited power of attorney or LPOA, lets someone make certain monetary or legal decisions for you under very specific circumstances.

Like general power of attorney, LPOA is only active while you're capable of intervening on your behalf (i.e. when you're not incapacitated). However, unlike general POA, your agent doesn't have free reign over your financial and legal life.

For instance, you could need to quickly move out of state and therefore don't have time to sell your home. You may opt to grant limited power of attorney to a

friend or family member in that state, allowing them to complete the home sale on your behalf. They can make all decisions and sign all paperwork, but only if it relates to the home sale—any other financial or legal decisions still fall on you.







## Durable Power of Attorney

Unlike general POA, which becomes invalid when you become incapacitated, durable power of attorney continues if this happens.

“Incapacitated” means you’re ruled incapable of making decisions for yourself, whether because you’re unconscious, comatose, in a vegetative state, or have mental impairments that have rendered your judgment unsound (e.g. advanced dementia).

You may wonder why you would want to give someone general power of attorney but not durable POA. It’s always a personal decision, but it often comes down to who you want to take care of your decisions while you can still have active input and who you want to take care of decisions if you can no longer have a say in them.

Your general and durable POA agents may not be the same person for a variety of reasons. For instance, if you have no local family and need someone to sign legal or financial documents for you while you travel, you may choose a nearby friend to have general POA. However, if you become incapacitated, you may not want that friend to make legal and financial decisions on your behalf.

Durable power of attorney generally allows someone to make decisions both while you’re healthy and if you’re incapacitated. But what if you want someone to only make decisions while you’re healthy and someone else to only make decisions if you’re in a medical crisis?

In that case, you would use a type of durable POA called “springing” or “conditional” POA. This kicks in only when you become incapacitated.

## Durable Financial Power of Attorney

An agent who manages your finances if you become incapacitated has durable financial power of attorney.

Basically, if it involves money, the person with durable financial POA can do whatever tasks you ask of them. If you **ONLY** want them paying your bills, you need to make that explicit. If you want them to sell your house for whatever reason, you need to expressly give them that power.

If you know who you’d like your agent to be and what decisions they should make, start creating a durable financial power of attorney today.



**DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY**  
Agent can make decisions on your behalf  
while you're healthy and/or incapacitated.

 **GOODTRUST**  
[www.mygoodtrust.com](http://www.mygoodtrust.com)





## Durable Medical Power of Attorney

Durable medical POA, also called POA for healthcare, allows your agent to decide the types of medical treatments you receive.

If you know what you want to be done when you're incapacitated, be sure to create an advance directive. Advance directives allow you to state your wishes for medical care when you're not able to express them yourself. You may consider consulting with a doctor or lawyer to ensure your wishes are feasible.

Writing an advance directive makes your agent's job easier. They don't have to try to make educated guesses about what you would want; they just have to follow your requests.

If you don't write an advance directive but have granted someone medical POA, they can make medical decisions of any sort so long as the decisions are legal and permitted by the treatment center.

So, when choosing someone to have medical POA, pick someone you know will fight for your wishes or, if they don't have those details, make educated guesses rather than base decisions on emotions or their own values.

## Should I assign the same agent both durable financial and medical power of attorney?

Having the same person or different people acting as agents for your durable financial and medical powers of attorney is a personal decision. Still, there are some important things to consider.

A significant reason to consider having the same person acting with both durable medical and financial POA is that medical and financial decisions often go hand-in-hand, especially towards the end of life.

An agent who just has durable medical POA can give as many medical orders as they want, but they can't necessarily decide if your money is spent on those treatments. Likewise, an agent with durable financial POA can't tell doctors what to do, but they can choose whether or not to pay for treatment.

If you opt to have separate people acting with medical and financial POA, make sure they are people who both understand your desires and will work well together.





## How to Choose a Power of Attorney Agent

When you are deciding who to ask to be your agent, there are several questions to ask yourself:

1. Do I want more than one person to have power of attorney?
2. Who do I trust to remain level-headed in the event of an emergency?
3. Do their values align with my own, meaning they'll follow my wishes even if they're difficult (e.g., not wanting to be kept on life support)?
4. Who do I know who is good with money?
5. Who do I know who understands medical terminology (or is comfortable speaking with medical professionals)?
6. Am I choosing this person out of a sense of obligation or because I genuinely want them to oversee these decisions?
7. Is this person in good enough health for me to trust they'll be around if I need them to use their POA?

Once you've answered these questions, you may be better prepared to choose a person or people to act on your behalf. Try to keep emotions out of your power of attorney decisions, as hard as it may be. You don't owe anyone power over your medical or financial future, no matter how much you love them and they love you.

## Giving Your Children Durable POA

If you have adult children, you may want to consider using them as your durable power of attorney agents. However, you are under no obligation to do so, and they should have a say in the decision if you're considering them.

Your children may be a good choice if you trust them to remain level-headed, follow your wishes, and to be frank, not make decisions based on their inheritance.

Researchers have noticed a rise in what they've dubbed "early inheritance syndrome" in which "children seek ways for their parents to give them money, or interfere in the management of their parents' assets to protect what they see as their entitlement."

Financial abuse is the most common type of elder abuse, and this abuse applies to people who are otherwise struggling to manage their finances or become incapacitated. As early inheritance syndrome most commonly affects adult children who manage their parents' finances, it is certainly something to consider.

No one wants to think this is possible with their children, and for many children, it isn't. But no matter who you choose as your power of attorney agents, having a lawyer write up the paperwork to ensure all t's are crossed and i's are dotted could bring peace of mind.





We aren't telling you to rule out your children entirely. Your adult kids may be the perfect agents and, later, executors for your will. We are simply advising caution, as we do with any other choice you make in assigning someone power of attorney.

## 5 Steps for Assigning Durable Power of Attorney

Durable POA requirements vary slightly by state, as some may be stricter than others. When in doubt, research local laws or reach out to a lawyer for assistance.

However, the basics tend to be universal.

### 1. Speak to a Financial Advisor, Lawyer, and/or Your Doctor

Before assigning durable power of attorney, you'll need to write down the types of decisions you want your agent to make on your behalf. If you're able to, speak to a financial advisor, lawyer, and/or people on your medical team about what the best routes are for you.

You may choose to create an advance directive at this point or simply create a list of desires and have your advisors help modify them as needed.

The financial advisor can help you identify and manage assets, debts, and future expenses that your agent will need to deal with.

A doctor can advise you about your rights and ensure you understand what you're putting in your advance directive. Some of these directives are more legally binding than others, and your doctor can help you understand what your state allows, what your doctor will agree to, and what type of forms you need.

Lawyers can double-check all forms to ensure they're reasonable and legal.

### 2. Secure Your Durable Power of Attorney Agent

Once you've decided who your agent(s) will be and have ensured they are comfortable carrying out all your wishes, you need to guarantee there can't be any confusion about who this person is.

Compile all personally identifying information, including:

- Full legal name (including things like "Jr.")
- Exact relationship to you
- Address
- Phone number
- Email address

This ensures that if you know people with similar names, they can't be confused with each other. If their contact information changes, you may need to update that information in your POA form as well.





### 3. Find and Fill Out a Power of Attorney Form

Fill out a durable power of attorney form using the information your agent provided in the previous step.

According to Forbes, “Many states create what are referred to as ‘statutory powers of attorney.’ These are standard documents intended to work in that particular state. These forms may be accepted more readily in your state than a more comprehensive Internet form.”

Statutory power of attorney forms can often be found for free on official state government websites. Since they’re provided by the state, they should be legally acceptable.

Many other forms you can find online are comprehensive and would be deemed legal by your state, but they could require a lot more work on your part and, perhaps, cost money. On the other hand, using this state-provided option could be both free and comparatively easy, especially if you get it reviewed by a lawyer before completion.

### 4. Sign and Notarize Your Power of Attorney Form

Your state determines how signatures need to be handled. Do you need witnesses? Notaries? Both? Check your state laws and ensure they’re filled out correctly.

### 5. Keep Your Power of Attorney Forms Safe

Once your power of attorney forms are complete, make physical and scanned versions.

The physical copies should be kept in a few different places:

- With your power of attorney agents
- With your other necessary paperwork, ideally in a firebox
- With all members of your medical team
- With your lawyer, if relevant
- With your financial advisor or other financial institutions, if relevant

As for the scanned copy, the best thing you can do is upload it to a digital legacy platform that can securely store your documents.

## How to Change or Revoke Power of Attorney

Perhaps your agent has died, moved too far away, or has otherwise become unable to carry out their duties. Maybe you’re no longer comfortable with this person having so much control over your future. Or, you could simply have new wishes and need to update your documents.





Whatever the reason, you can opt to change or revoke an agent's power of attorney rights by following these steps:

1. Decide what changes you want to make.
2. Prepare the revised paperwork, using a new power of attorney form.
3. Submit a Notice of Revocation or Revocation of Power of Attorney form, which may require notarization (check your state's laws for requirements)
4. Update all interested parties about the revocation and new POA form.
5. Submit the new POA form.

Don't forget to replace all your current printed and scanned copies with copies of your revocation and replacement power of attorney forms.

## How can GoodTrust Help With Power of Attorney Forms?

If you're looking to assign durable financial power of attorney, GoodTrust can help. We know the process of finding and filling out these forms can be complicated, which is why we're building a tool to help you along the process. We'll alert users when it's ready.

In addition, you can store all important paperwork, including (but not limited to) your power of attorney, last will and testament, and advance directives in your GoodTrust account.

In the meantime, take control of your digital afterlife and begin your will for free. Sign up for a [free GoodTrust account](#) today.





## HOW TO

# How To Choose The Right Executor For A Will

*"An executor decides what happens to all my assets after I pass away."*

A definition that most people would give on the questions of what an executor of a will does. A self-explanatory but also very unspecific answer, that leaves questions about how to choose an executor, their power and limits open. So what exactly is an executor, and how do I choose the right person for the position? Should it be a family member close to me and everyone in my will or should it be a person with a neutral standpoint?

### What is an executor?

Let's start with the basic definition of an executor. They are arguably the most important part of your will, as they follow your wishes in your will and distribute your assets accordingly. They also take care of any outstanding debt related to your estate or issues related to the will and distribution.

### Who should be my executor?

Your executor should be someone you truly trust. It is very common that people choose a special family member or close friend to take care of their last wishes. The executor should be a responsible person with a good financial standing, and is emotionally grounded enough to neutrally handle your wishes. It is advised to ask the person beforehand if they are willing to take on this important position. The executor takes care of all tangible assets like your house, car, jewelry, as well as your bank accounts, paychecks, and taxes.

### What is a digital executor?

However, there is a fairly novel aspect to your estate that you may have not taken into consideration yet. What will happen to all your digital assets after you pass away? You spend hours over hours online every day, but what happens to your online inventory after you are gone? Do you want your social media profiles memorized for your close ones, or do you want them taken down from the internet? The so-called 'Digital Afterlife' is where the digital executor comes into the picture. Digital executors take care of all your intangible assets and are given the right to manage your online accounts, such as your social media profiles, email accounts, clouds, etc.







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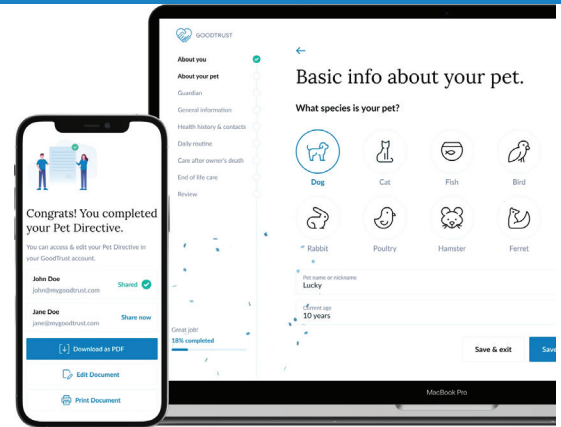
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### Do I need two executors?

You can choose one trusted person to be your executor for your tangible and intangible assets, or you can split up the tasks. It is important to additionally mention the digital executor and provide them with logins in your will, because otherwise access to these accounts is not guaranteed. There are very easy tools for [estate planning](#) that take care of your digital assets and give easy access to the accounts to trusted family members or friends. When utilizing an online estate management service, you can specify what will happen to your individual accounts, without your executor having to take action. Additionally you can memorize and share certain accounts containing valuable content with your loved ones.

Whether through an online service or a digital executor, giving someone access to your digital afterlife is becoming more and more important. As we are all starting to spend more and more of our lives online, it is





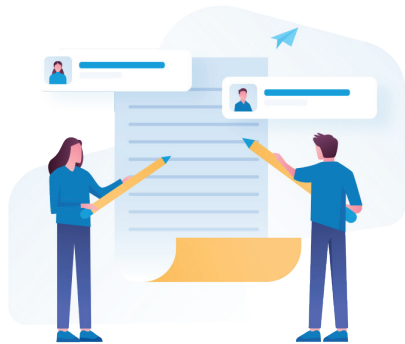
## PET DIRECTIVE BY GOODTRUST

# Protect Your Pet With A Pet Directive

Pets are also members of our families. But do you know what will happen to them if unexpected happens to you? Ensure that your cat, dog, feathered or scaly companion ends up safe and sound by creating a GoodTrust Pet Directive. We're animal lovers like you, and we're here to help.

## Create Your Pet Directive with GoodTrust.

→ Create Pet Directive



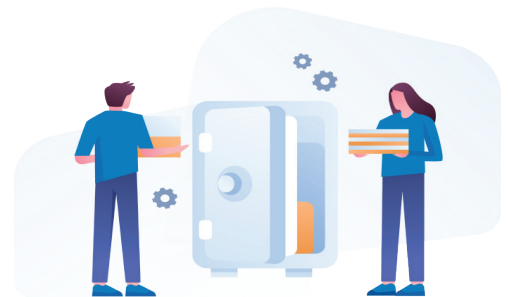
### 1. CREATE A GOODTRUST ACCOUNT

It takes less than 5 minutes. All you need is an email and password to get started.



### 2. ANSWER A FEW SIMPLE QUESTIONS

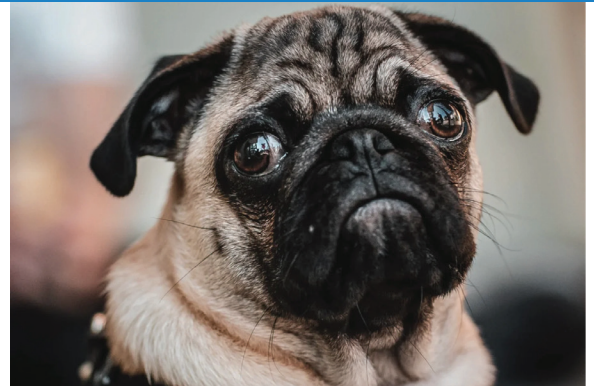
We'll guide you through the pet directive, where you'll provide your choices for pet guardian, veterinary care, living situation, end-of-life care, and more.



### 3. SIGN, PRINT, & SECURE.

Print out a copy of your completed pet directive for yourself and your pet guardian. For additional security, upload the final document to your GoodTrust Digital Vault so it never gets lost.





## What Is A Pet Directive?

GoodTrust's pet directive includes information about your pet and your preferences for their care in the event you pass away.

It is meant to help loved ones make decisions about your pet. Unlike most advance directives, pet directives are not legally binding documents. However, they can help pet owners like you leave specific and detailed instructions for how you'd like your pet to be cared for.

Some specifics you can include are:

- Preferred pet guardian(s)
- Health history
- Medical conditions/treatments
- Food and treat preferences
- Exercise routine
- Preferred sitter and groomer
- Temperament

## Ensure They Get Proper Veterinary Care



If your pet has a medical issue, you want to ensure they get the specialized care they need. Pet directives inform your chosen pet guardian of any known medical issues, current treatment plans, health history, and which veterinarian they see. Keep your pet happy and healthy, even from the afterlife.

## Don't Leave Your Pets Waiting by the Door



Our pets have a part of our hearts and we have a part of theirs. They tell us they love us every time we open the door to a wagging tail or a purr. If you pass away unexpectedly, they may never see another smiling human walk in a door to greet them unless you have a plan in place to ensure they're cared for. From choosing a pet guardian to specifying their favorite treat, a pet directive ensures your pet will receive the love and care they deserve.



[Get Pet Directive](#)



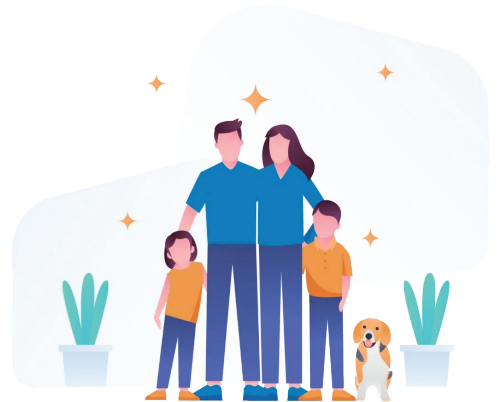


## Do I Need a Pet Directive?

If you're one of the 85% of people who consider their pets family, then you need to create a pet directive.

Many people assume their pets will be taken in by someone they love, even if they aren't specifically asked to do so. However, only about 25% of pets are taken in by relatives and far fewer are taken in by friends or strangers when their owners die—the rest end up in shelters or abandoned.

Of all dogs that enter shelters, **20% are euthanized**; for cats, that number is 27%. Not all the rest are adopted, either. Many spend the remainder of their lives in shelters or foster care, particularly if they're older, have health issues, or are otherwise “undesirable.”



## Choosing a Pet Guardian

Choosing a pet guardian is not something to be taken lightly. You want to find someone who will love and care for your animal(s) as much as you do. So, when picking your pet guardian, you should ask yourself:

- Have they met your pet?
- Would your pet thrive in their home environment?
- Would your pet be friendly to all human and animal residents in their home?
- Do they have the means to care for a pet (regardless if you provide money for care)?
- Do you trust they'll fulfill all expectations and instructions you provide?



When you determine who you can say “yes” for most or all these questions, discuss the issue with them. Bring your pet directive with you when you meet with your chosen person.

Start the conversation by making it clear you want them to decline if they have any reservations. If they are willing to continue the discussion, go over your desires. Allow them the chance to stop you at any time to ask questions and, if needed, negotiate.

You should also have a backup or two in mind. Your first choice's ability to care for your pet may change before they take guardianship, or after. If you can't find someone who will take in your animals, speak to your veterinarian about possibilities. While many shelters can't guarantee they'll be able to take your pet, your veterinarian may know of other options.





## Frequently Asked Questions About Pet Directive

### + What is a pet directive?

A pet directive is a plan for long-term care of pets of deceased owners. It includes their medical history, chosen pet guardian, lifestyle preferences, and more.

### + What is the difference between a pet trust, directive, and Will?

A pet trust is a legal document permitted in each state, ensuring your animals will be cared for as per your instructions upon your death.

Pet directives are not legally binding documents, and are meant to provide detailed guidance for pet care after the death of the owner.

While you can't make a pet Will, you can generally include instructions for your pet's care in your own Will, in addition to a trust. If you want to leave money for the care of your pet, you would specify it in your Will.

### + Can I leave my estate to my pet?

Pets cannot be granted money or property, but depending on your state, you can set up funding for them under their new guardian's name and dictate that money be used for pet care.

### + What will happen to my pet when I die if I don't have a pet trust?

If you don't have a pet trust set up, your next of kin or someone appointed by a court can determine what happens to your pets. It is best to not assume anyone will take custody of your dog or cat after death, as only about a quarter of pets are taken in by relatives or friends. Your companion animal could end up at a shelter or, worse, abandoned.

### + Is a pet directive legally binding?

Pet directives are not legally binding. However, pet trusts are generally legally binding, and the directive can guide you in creating one.

[Read more FAQs](#)



**STEP 2**

## Protect Your Digital Legacy

In this day and age, end-of-life planning must include a plan for your digital accounts. Your digital legacy includes everything online: from email to bank accounts to social media. With GoodTrust, you can assign people to decide the fate of your online presence and provide them with the information they need to do so.

### WHAT IS DIGITAL LEGACY?

Everything you've ever created online and with different devices counts as your digital legacy. That includes photos, videos, emails, financial accounts, cloud storage, social media, subscriptions, cryptocurrency, domain names and more.

In today's era, when we're connected for an average of 7 hours per day, it's critical to plan and decide what happens to all of that priceless content. The choices are yours.

[Learn more](#)

### WHY IS DIGITAL LEGACY IMPORTANT?

Our digital legacy is now intertwined with our physical legacy. We have both physical assets and digital ones. And without addressing your digital legacy, your memories, stories, and information can be lost forever.

In addition, after someone passes away they can be still be vulnerable to hackers and identity thieves, which can be hurtful to the remaining family. Secure your digital legacy today.

[Learn more](#)

### START WITH GOODTRUST NOW



#### Family History

Learn how to trace your ancestry and create a family tree for you and your loved ones to pass down through the generations.

[Learn more](#)

#### Secure Social Media

Secure your social media accounts so your loved ones can delete, memorialize or retrieve content once you have passed away.

[Learn more](#)

#### Protect Online Accounts

Protect your online accounts, including bank accounts, music apps, and subscription services, so your identity and financials are secured.

[Learn more](#)

#### Safeguard Documents

Easily and safely store or share essential family documents like Wills, passports, insurance, estate information and more.

[Learn more](#)

#### Future Messages

Send Future Messages as a digital time capsule either to friends or family members or to your future self. Even after you pass away.

[Learn more](#)





## LIFESTYLE

# GoodTrust Co-Founder - Digital Legacy Is Story Of You

Imagine that every object in your life that matters to you, everything that is meaningful, is inside one room: family heirlooms, treasured photos, money, expensive items, inexpensive items, your choice. Pack it full. Don't leave anything behind. Now imagine that same room suddenly has impenetrable walls and no doors, no windows, no way inside. And you're standing outside of it. Locked out.

### Then you die.

Everything you cared about is trapped inside that room. No will or estate trust will ever note their inheritance. No one in your life now or in the future will ever possess them at your behest or understand their value or learn about their stories. There is no copy of these objects, and you were the only person who believed in the reason for their existence or appreciated their inherent value. And now they have essentially disappeared. It is as if they never existed!

### How does that make you feel?

### Hold that thought.

### Now imagine the opposite.

Every bit of information there is of you in this world—everything from what you think, what you say, what you see, what you buy, and where you go—was available for anyone to browse after you've died.

Some of your most private information. Available to strangers. Your children. Your business competitors. Theirs for the taking.

**How does that make you feel? Would we like what others see? The mistakes. The imperfections. The poor choices. The humanity.**

Both of these scenarios are a reality when it comes to our digital footprints: all the invaluable information that has been collected by computers and devices while we're alive. The choices around what happens to your digital legacy are up to you. But doing nothing is not a strategy. And that's where GoodTrust comes in—whether you're [planning ahead](#) or [taking care of someone else](#).

### What is the digital story of YOU?

Our digital life encompasses our every interaction with a screen, including social media posts, Google photos shared, playlists curated, blog posts posted, articles read, food ordered, destinations driven, and money spent. Digital assets like cryptocurrency or personal accounts like dating profiles. Countless videos and images and memories. This, coupled with other media available about us online—articles written about us, social media photos we're tagged in, and so on—forms our digital legacy.

Don't lose an opportunity this **Easter** to help [unite the family](#) through a strong plan for **your** digital legacy. The digital story of **you**. And [add a Trusted Contact](#) today to ensure someone you trusted is included in your wishes. Because you're not in this alone.







## LIFESTYLE

# What Happens To Our Digital Data After We Die

**Experts predict that the dead will outnumber the living on Facebook within the next 50 years according to new research from Oxford.**

While more of our lives are being spent online, one question becomes more relevant than ever - what happens to our data after we pass away? If you were to be hit by a meteor tomorrow, what would happen to your Gmail, Apple, Netflix or Google Drive accounts?

Well, under the contract law of most countries, privacy regulations cease at the point of death. However, most big tech companies treat the deceased account holders' data under the same contractual regulation as the living account holders. This means that your family members won't get access to your digital assets such as pictures, emails, word documents, files, or music albums as you would with tangible assets such as your car or house. Instead, your data is stored and owned by the tech companies in perpetuity with limited opportunities for your loved ones to ever access it.

Not all companies are holding this data just out of arm's reach though. Some, like Facebook, keep information on deceased users readily available in memoriam of the user. It essentially becomes a digital graveyard for family and friends to remember their loved ones.

But why is this important to you? You're dead anyway, right? Why should you care about who has access to your data? According to digital data experts, it has to do with personal integrity and the control of our cultural heritage. "The digital heritage left by the online dead are, or will at least become, part of our shared cultural digital heritage," said Öhman and Watson, the authors of the Oxford report. This data "may prove invaluable not only to future historians but to future generations as part of their record and self-understanding."

In other words, the people who own our data also have the power to control our individual and collective history. To consolidate that power to a "single firm or a small number of powerful companies is every bit as problematic as handing it over to a totalitarian government," Öhman and Watson said.

A job like this requires the help of historians, archivists, and policy advocates. The idea that tech giants and for-profit firms can be relied on to handle the individuals and the world's collective digital data in a correct and responsible way is unrealistic. So how should you think about storing your digital data and who should be allowed to access it?





Well, the first step is to delete the digital data that you don't need. The second step is to start organizing all your digital assets, such as pictures, videos, email databases, Google Drive accounts, passwords on a centralized place, or in physical form so you can pass it on to your relatives when the day comes. This not only helps your family organize your affairs during an already difficult situation, but it also lets you take control of your memory and how you want to be remembered.

If you'd like to read more in-depth on the steps you can take to protect your digital assets, feel free to take a look at our "Top 3 Steps on Your Digital Death To-Do List" article [here](#).

The full research article, "Are the dead taking over Facebook? A Big Data approach to the future of death online" by Öhman and Watson, can be read [here](#).





## HOW TO

# How To Create Your Family Tree | GoodTrust



Have you ever wondered about your family tree? Or taken a DNA test to find out where in the world your ancestors came from? Do you know your family history beyond your grandparents or great-grandparents? Now is the time to answer these questions. In this article you will learn about family trees, family history, and how to create your own legacy after you're gone.

## What is a family tree?

A family tree is a diagram that maps lineage and relationships between your previous bloodline ancestors over several generations. It usually starts with one family member in the past, and branches out to the most recent additions to the

bloodline. The “tree” in a family tree symbolizes the different branches of different generations, including marriages, children and deaths. Just like a tree has a stem, a family tree usually starts with one person and branches out from their bloodline. Like your family, a tree is a living organism that is all based on one foundation. Or at least as far back as you can go.

## Who is included in a Family Tree?

But who is included in a family tree? You might have asked yourself this question before reading this article, and you may have thought about whether or not to include different family members. The answer is quite simple: everyone. A family tree does not only show the different direct bloodline history, but also relationships with other kin. More importantly, a family tree is your family history and therefore anything you want it to be.

Usually included in a family tree are:

### Parents

Parent relationships are an important part of the family tree. Even if you are missing parts of the tree, make sure to fill in as much information as possible.





### Children

Children are another essential part of the tree. Besides any blood-related children, a family tree usually includes:

- Adoptive children
- Step-children
- Foster-children

### Previous spouses

Even if previous relationships didn't work out, make sure to include them in your tree. Complex family trees are not a bad thing, and often show how intricate someone's life was.

### Example: Yourself

If you take yourself as an example, then you can start with your parents and their parents. Then you can add your siblings, aunts and uncles, and cousins. Add their partners and children, and you already have your own family tree.

## How to create my own Family Tree

### 1. Collect Information

Collecting information on your family and your ancestors is essential for your family tree. You can start by writing down all the information you already have. Try going back in the family line as far as possible, and note down birthdays as well as relationships and connections. Once you reach the end of your own knowledge, you can start asking your family members questions. You can limit your tree to your family's knowledge, but you don't have to. Other resources are:



**Family pictures/Albums:** Look through old family photos and albums and see if you can find any additional information on.

**Marriage and Family Bibles:** Family bibles are a great resource when tracking family history. They often include births, deaths, baptisms, confirmations and marriages; Family Bibles usually include a "family record" or "family registry" section to capture this information. Sometimes family members add certificates, letters, newspaper cuttings and photographs inside the bible.

**Diaries, Journals, Letters:** Your parents or grandparents may have kept their journals or diaries somewhere. Those records are often helpful when looking for relationships or birthdates.



**Obituaries and Newspaper records:** You can look through old **newspaper articles** and local obituaries for any death records dated a while back.

**Certificates - Death, Birth, Marriage:** Look for any certificates in your families past records. There are many national and public records for **death certificates** and birth certificates.

**Databases:** There are several databases you can utilize to find more information about your ancestors. You can use these databases to find records of previous ancestors and marriages, and maybe some of their life story. **Acestry.com** provides free obituary and genealogy databases to search in.

**DNA Tests:** Nowadays many people use DNA testing to find out where their ancestors came from. DNA tests can give a very general overview of your roots. We don't advise you to purely rely on those results, as they can not accurately determine a specific area of hereditary ancestry.

**Museums, Courthouses and Libraries:** Local government entities or museums and libraries are another great resource for public records. Check their databases for last names, death or birth dates.

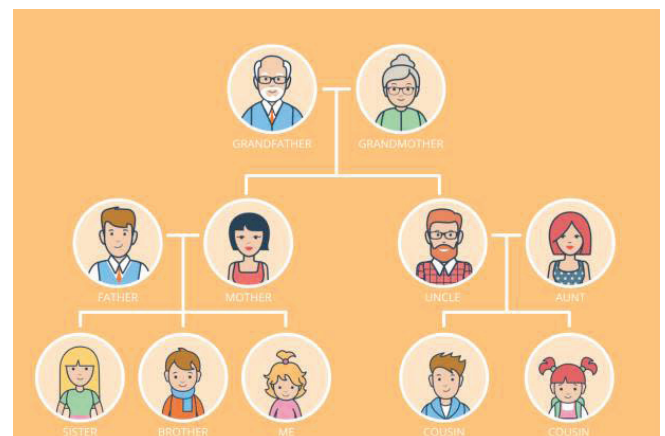
## 2. Decide where to start

After you have completed your research, it is time to start the family tree. You can start with yourself and work your way up, or you can start with the furthest family member you were able to find. Collect all the information you have found in a folder, preferably as a digital copy. If you want to save your family history for future generations, make sure to digitalize all the information you have gathered. Look and see how far back in your ancestry you are able to go.

## 3. Create the tree

Now it is time to create the tree. There are many different tools to creating a family tree. You can draw a family tree the old school way - on paper with a pen or pencil. There are also several websites with family tree templates and tools you could use.

Another option is simply using a Word or Excel file. We advise using any digital tool listed above; if you ever want to share your family tree with your children, you want to make sure it is stored sound and safe. Try to draw connections as accurately as possible. Leave space for birthdays and death dates for the family members you have the information on. Draw horizontal lines for marital relationships, and vertical lines for





children or descendants of those relationships. The diagram does not need to be in the shape of an actual tree, but stick to a shape that is easy to follow. Make sure to include:

- First and last name
- Birthday
- Date of Death
- Relationships
- Place of birth and death (if known)

Do not give up if you don't have the full records of all your family members. You might face knowledge gaps for some parts of the tree, and might also run into dead ends. If you do, just continue the tree and other parts of the family you are aware of. If you can't find information about their birthplace, first or last name or place, include them anyway.

## 4. Share the Tree

Congratulations! You have now created your own family tree. This is exciting news and you should share it with your family and friends immediately. Make sure to digitally save a copy of your tree, so it won't get lost over time. You can also share it on your social media to your friends and family.

With [Future Messages](#), you can also share your family tree as a surprise anytime in the future! [Future Messages](#) from GoodTrust allow you to create a customized video, photo, or text message to be automatically sent to anyone on a date you decide. You can even schedule messages for after your death. Like a digital time capsule. Make sure your family history is never forgotten.







## LIFESTYLE

# Top 3 Steps on Your Digital Death To-Do List

The death of a loved one can be a confusing and frustrating time, so it's more important than ever that you're prepared for what's to come. Here's some helpful tips on where you should start, in managing your digital legacy or that of your loved one's. To plan ahead with securing social media accounts just click [here](#).

## 1. Organize the Important Documents

Very little can be done if no one has access to important documents such as death certificate, obituary, Power of Attorney, proof of identity, etc. So we recommend as soon as possible that you and your family know who will be responsible for the remaining obligations of your loved one after death.

Here's a list of documents and information you should have copies of on hand before you begin the process of managing digital assets. We also recommend that you store these documents both physically and electronically as different sites have different requirements.

- Death Certificate
- Obituary
- ID or Driver's License

Power of Attorney/Court Order (Commonly, if you are not part of the immediate family or do not share the same name as the deceased, you will need some formal document to prove you have the power to act on behalf of the person)

## 2. Memorialize Facebook (if applicable)

Don't leave friends and family in the dark. Your next step should be to focus on sites in which your loved one connected with distant friends and family members that may not be close enough to the family to have heard the news of their passing. The reason we specifically focus on Facebook is because 7 out of 10 adults are still active on Facebook and the average user has more than 150 friends and family they interact with.

Facebook is also one of the only social media sites that allow you to memorialize an account. This means that instead of deleting the account and possibly losing hundreds of memories and photos living within the platform you can instead freeze the account to where all photos and posts are preserved but the account can no longer be logged into and the account doesn't appear in public pages anymore.







This alerts anyone that comes across the page that this person is no longer with us, and protects the account against identity theft. The only other site we know of that has this function is Instagram.

If you'd like to know how to memorialize Facebook for a loved one, refer to our article on Facebook [here](#). In addition to providing information on how to memorialize Facebook, if you sign-up with GoodTrust today we can even memorialize your account for free. Get started today!

### 3. List Out Accounts to Take Down

Managing someone's digital life is a tedious task that takes time, patience and planning. If you'd like to see how GoodTrust can guide you through this process, [click here](#).

If you're going at it solo though, planning and organization is key. We recommend first listing out all accounts that your loved one had, placing emphasis on ones that (1) are still charging money for a service and (2) have a large audience your loved one may have been active within (i.e. social media). After listing out these accounts, make a list of each document or piece of information that these sites require in order to shut down, memorialize or stop billing charges quickly and efficiently.

Remember, GoodTrust is always here to help you in any way we can, through these difficult times. We hope you found this article helpful in taking those first few steps in managing digital assets. If you're interested in learning more about actions you can take today to protect your digital legacy, check out our "What is Digital Legacy?" article [here](#).





## HOW TO

# Don't Become a Victim in the Online Afterlife

Fraud. Scammers. Deception. Every year the identities of roughly millions of deceased Americans are accessed by thieves looking to do everything from fraudulently create credit card accounts and apply for loans to open cell phone accounts and acquire other services. Even more staggering, roughly 800,000 deceased people are deliberately targeted. That's about 2,200 per day!

Sadly, even with the right laws in place, the malicious and predatory elements of the Internet will always be there. And as more people leave a trace of their lives online after death, there are more ways for the malevolent among us to prey on that vulnerability.

How? It happens in increments. A cybersecurity incident may take place on one particular site, and the attackers combine that data (e.g., name, address, and birth date) with the information they can learn from a social media page, which could inform them about passwords (we often choose phrases from our life, such as pet names or addresses), and this provides the bad guys with a fuller picture of how to either impersonate individuals or gain unauthorized access to their accounts.

## Practical ways to get started

Whatever the reason for the unauthorized access to the deceased's account, there are things you can do to help minimize any chance of being the victim of a bereavement scam:

- Avoid putting too much personal information into an obituary like middle name, maiden name, exact birth date, address, and so on. (And be aware of how easy it is to spoof or alter an obituary, if it's required by a site for identification purposes.)
- Take action with social media accounts and other online sites
- Send copies of the death certificate to credit-reporting agencies as soon as possible. Don't wait for the Social Security Administration to do it (that process could take months).
- Review the deceased person's credit report for unusual activity, and ensure you have access to it beforehand.
- Send the IRS a copy of the death certificate.



- Contact the Department of Motor Vehicles to advise of the person's demise and to prevent duplicate identification from being issued.
- Contact the Direct Marketing Association to put the deceased individual on a "do not contact" list.
- Notify banks, credit agencies, and other financial institutions of the individual's passing.
- Speak only with trusted entities by contacting them directly yourself; don't entertain any incoming calls.
- Authorize trusted friends and family members, or "deputies," to shut down online accounts as soon as possible after your death. Or, at least, have them monitor the accounts so that they might receive any notifications from a bank or site asking for verification should those accounts be accessed.

It's terrible to imagine that there are people out there who will take advantage of death, which should be off-limits for even the most ardent and vile scammers. Or that our digital assets can disappear entirely with our passing, or at the erroneous touch of a button. The good news is that you have the capacity to minimize your chances of being a ghosting victim or a victim of happenstance by taking a few simple steps to protect your online life.

Once these vital layers of protection are established, then it's up to you to decide what you leave behind in the virtual world - and how to best protect it all. Get started today at [mygoodtrust.com](https://mygoodtrust.com).

*(Part of this article is taken from the book **Digital Legacy: Take Control of Your Online Afterlife** - for more including reviews and how to buy it visit <https://mygoodtrust.com/book>.)*






## LIFESTYLE

# Without Sharing, Critical Documents Could Be Lost

These days we all have critical documents that are still often in analog form including our driver's license, passport, health insurance cards, car and life insurance, will ([create yours today by clicking here](#)), and that all-important vaccine card among many others.

But what happens if they go missing or need to be accessed by a family member who isn't nearby? By taking just 5-10 minutes you can ensure they won't be lost forever and create a valuable backup through your [GoodTrust account](#) and uploading to your [Docs & Notes](#) section.






### Add any document

Make sure all your documents are found.


[Add now](#)Takes 1 min.



### Add your passport

Share copy of passport and id documentation with family.


[Add now](#)Takes 1 min.



### Add valuable contracts

Make is easy to find all your important contracts today


[Add now](#)Takes 1 min.



### Add your will

Make sure loved ones find your will and last wishes.

[Add now](#)Takes 1 min.



### Add life insurance

Help loved ones find all your insurance policies in time.

[Add now](#)Takes 1 min.

## Take advantage of Docs & Notes


It's as easy as either uploading the document itself or taking a photo and uploading it instead. You can categorize it, add some additional information about it (e.g. the physical location where it's stored as well), and share it with a [Trusted Contact](#) (a friend or family member).

### ← Add new document or note.

DOCUMENT INFO

Document title

Choose a document category (optional)

  
Drag & drop document or photo of document here

TRUSTED CONTACT & INSTRUCTIONS

Assign a Trusted Contact  
Not selected

Add notes or instructions (optional)

**Remember:** your [Trusted Contacts](#) (previously known as Deputies) only have access to what you specifically designate within your account. That could be now (as more of a family utility), never, or after you pass away.



## Ensure you have at least one Trusted Contact

You can create as many [Trusted Contacts](#) as you wish and they will also get an invitation to set up a free GoodTrust account. Think of it like creating a mini “family plan” in a “digital vault” to ensure everyone has the right access. They can also be accessed when someone is traveling or away from home right through the GoodTrust account.

Get started today and don't forget to [create your free will in less than 15 minutes](#) - you can easily save it, print it and upload it back to your [Docs & Notes section](#) once it's witnessed (and therefore legally valid).



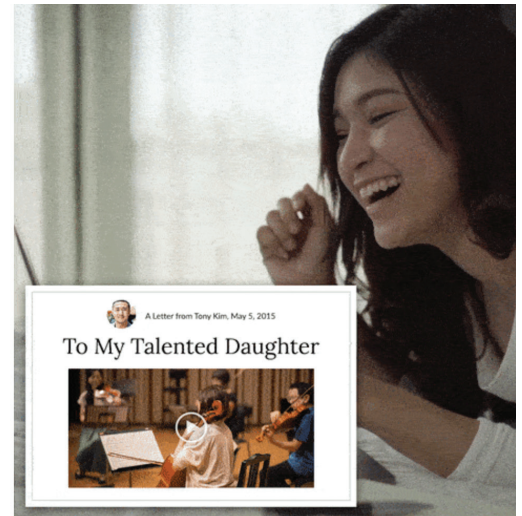


## NEWS

# A Digital Time Capsule With Future Messages

Do you love receiving those “On This Day” messages to look at photos, videos, and memories? What if you could create your own and decide when they get shared? Or inspire yourself or others to live their best life? Or capture your love today and share it with your spouse months or years from now? Even after you pass away?



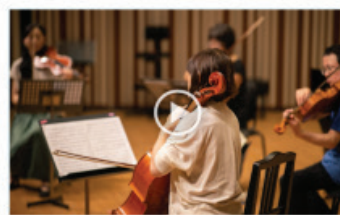
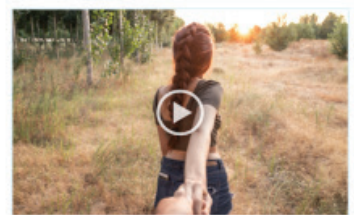
That’s all possible with GoodTrust [Future Messages](#), which allows you to easily create and schedule a personalized time capsule with text, photos, and video - sent to anyone you choose. We’ll do the rest to ensure it’s delivered at just the right moment to connect with loved ones, friends, and family members. Imagine the reaction on the other end when they receive it - priceless.



It’s important to note that [Future Messages](#) can be customized to your preferences and **private** to you and the recipient. We’ve created inspirational examples to help you get started. The recipient of anything you share will also receive a secure invitation to join GoodTrust for free.

## GET INSPIRED

[See all](#)

 <p>Message by Sarah Wilson Time travelled 19 hours</p> <p><b>Dear Me: Always Choose Joy</b></p> <p><a href="#">Read message</a></p>	 <p>Message by Juan Pérez Time travelled 19 hours</p> <p><b>Happy Anniversary!</b></p> <p><a href="#">Read message</a></p>	 <p>Message by Tony Kim Time travelled 19 hours</p> <p><b>To My Talented Daughter</b></p> <p><a href="#">Read message</a></p>	 <p>Message by Freddie Maxwell Time travelled 19 hours</p> <p><b>Love At First Sight</b></p> <p><a href="#">Read message</a></p>
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## So where to begin?

1. Record a video message that captures how you're feeling today or create a [GoodTrust Memory](#) (animated photo)
2. Surprise your future self with a written message about your plans (maybe include your bucket list)
3. Get inspired by checking out examples of [Future Messages](#) created by GoodTrust

## Decide on the recipient

You could send Future Messages to your:

- Children
- Grandparents
- Spouse
- Siblings
- Friends
- Future self

## Select the delivery date

This can be months from now, 1 year, 3 years, 5 years, or more! You can even schedule your [Future Message](#) to be delivered on a specific date, maybe for a birthday or an anniversary, or just for the fun of seeing what will be occurring on the day you receive a message from your past self.

Even create your own "On This Day" moment to share with others. You might even send a message *now* so you don't forget someone's birthday or anniversary in the future. You can choose to send your [Future Message](#) sometime in the (near or distant) future or to send them after your passing.

**Your Message is saved. It will be delivered on Saturday 12th of June 2028.**

You can edit your message in your GoodTrust account anytime.



Edit message



See my messages



Create new message







## Connect your entire digital legacy

Further, you'll be able to discover and explore the various other features GoodTrust has to offer like [creating a free will \(in less than 15 minutes - maybe record a Future Message that describes WHY certain heirlooms are so important to you\)](#). You can also include a [GoodTrust Memory](#) (animated photo) in your [Future Messages](#) to create a special moment that's preserved over time.

We also invite you to explore what more you can do with GoodTrust, from [safeguarding your accounts and social media](#) to [uploading and sharing valuable documents](#) to [specifying your end-of-life and afterlife will and wishes](#).

The future - is now. So why not start by [sending yourself an inspirational message today?](#)





STEP 3

## Memorialize & Delete Social Media Accounts

Memorializing or deleting social media accounts helps keep your identity safe and stops people from misusing the accounts.

When undertaking end-of-life planning, you can choose individuals to close down or memorialize your social media accounts by providing them the necessary details on GoodTrust. They can also potentially retrieve content on your behalf.

### SECURE THESE ACCOUNTS TODAY



Facebook



Instagram



TikTok



Twitter

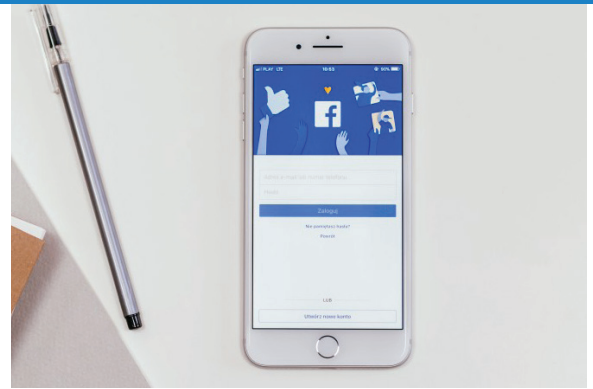


LinkedIn



Snapchat





## SITES

# How To Deactivate A Facebook Account When Someone Dies

Do you need to deactivate your deceased loved one's Facebook Account?  
Here's everything you need to know!

**Facebook Deactivation Options:** If the Facebook account owner dies, you have the option of:

**Deleting** the account completely OR

**Memorializing** the account, which allows friends and family to still view photos, videos and other memories but does not allow the account to be logged into, therefore securing the account from identity theft or data extraction. But, please be aware that Facebook does have a legacy contact

option where a user can list a family member or friend to have access to their account after they are deceased. If this legacy contact is not you or the user did not have a legacy contact, this may hinder your ability to access the memorialized account after it's been memorialized or **REMOVE** the account. If you are not the legacy contact or there isn't one, the account can **ONLY** be memorialized, not removed. To find more information on this, visit the [Facebook Help](#) page on memorialization.



## Required Information

- User's full name and email
- Official date of death
- Documentation of death (Ex. obituary, death certificate, memorial card, etc.)
- To **DELETE** the account, if you don't have the death certificate you'll need a proof of authority such as power of attorney, birth certificate, last will and testament, or estate letter.
- Your full name and email





## How to Memorialize A Facebook Account:

1. Access this [Facebook Help](#) page in order to submit a request for Memorialization
2. Prepare and fill-in the following Required Information
3. Send in your request

**\*Note that due to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, memorialization and account removal requests may take more time to process than usual.**

## How to Delete A Facebook Account (WITHOUT PASSWORD):

1. Access this [Facebook Help](#) page in order to submit a request to delete the account
2. Prepare and fill-in the following Required Information
3. Send in your request

**\*Note that according to Facebook, “Only the legacy contact can request profile removal. The profile can [only] be reported for memorialization and will remain memorialized (unless the legacy contact requests removal)”.**

## How to Delete A Facebook Account (WITH PASSWORD):

1. Log in to Facebook with the your email and password
2. Visit the company’s “Delete My Account” page
3. Click the “Delete My Account” button

**Need help?** GoodTrust is a trusted expert in managing digital legacy and our experienced team knows exactly how to help you quickly delete, memorialize or extract content from sites like these. If you sign-up now we’ll even close down or memorialize Facebook for free!

**Do you want to solve it today?**



**Get started**





## SITES

# How To Deactivate An Instagram Account When Someone Dies

Do you need to deactivate your deceased loved one's Instagram Account?  
Here's everything you need to know!

### Instagram Deactivation Options:

If the Instagram account owner dies, you have the option of:

**Deleting** the account completely OR

**Memorializing** the account, which allows friends and family to still view photos, videos and other memories but does not allow the account to be logged into, therefore securing the account from identity theft or data extraction. Also as Instagram is owned by Facebook, the process for memorialization and account removal will be almost identical to one another.



### Required Information

- User's full name and email
- Official date of death
- Documentation of death (Ex. obituary, death certificate, memorial card, etc.)
- To **DELETE** the account, if you don't have the death certificate you'll need a proof of authority such as power of attorney, birth certificate, last will and testament, or estate letter.
- Your full name and email





## How to Memorialize An Instagram Account:

1. Access this [Instagram Help](#) page in order to submit a request for Memorialization
2. Prepare and fill-in the following Required Information
3. Send in your request

**\*Note that due to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, memorialization and account removal requests may take more time to process than usual.**

## How to Delete An Instagram Account (WITHOUT PASSWORD):

1. Access this [Instagram Help](#) page in order to submit a request to delete the account
2. Prepare and fill-in the following Required Information
3. Send in your request

## How to Delete An Instagram Account (WITH PASSWORD):

1. Access the [Delete Your Account](#) page
2. Log into the user's Instagram account with email/username and password
3. Click the reason that you are deleting the account
4. Click the "Permanently Delete My Account" button in the bottom left corner

**Need help?** GoodTrust is a trusted expert in managing digital legacy and our experienced team knows exactly how to help you quickly delete, memorialize or extract content from sites like these. If you sign-up now we'll even close down or memorialize Facebook for free!

[Get started today to take care of countless sites.](#)

**Do you want to solve it today?**



**Get started**





## SITES

# How To Deactivate A TikTok Account When Someone Dies

**Do you need to deactivate your deceased loved one's Tik Tok Account?  
Here's everything you need to know!**

While the GoodTrust team has yet to find a way to delete one's Tik Tok account without a password, we are in constant communication with Tik Tok representatives to find an answer. So stay tuned!

**Tik Tok Deactivation Options:** If the Tik Tok account owner dies, you have the option of:

**Deleting** the account completely

## How to Delete A Tik Tok Account (WITH PASSWORD):

- Access [Tik Tok log-in](#) page
- Go to your Profile tab
- Select the “Settings” in the top right corner
- Select “Manage My Account”
- Select “Delete Account”

**\*Remember that deleting a Tik Tok account is irreversible and all the information will be deleted. Including videos posted, items purchased. Shared information such as text messages and comments may still be visible to others.**

**Need help?** GoodTrust is a trusted expert in managing digital legacy and our experienced team knows exactly how to help you quickly delete, memorialize or extract content from sites like these. If you sign-up now we'll even close down or memorialize Facebook for free!

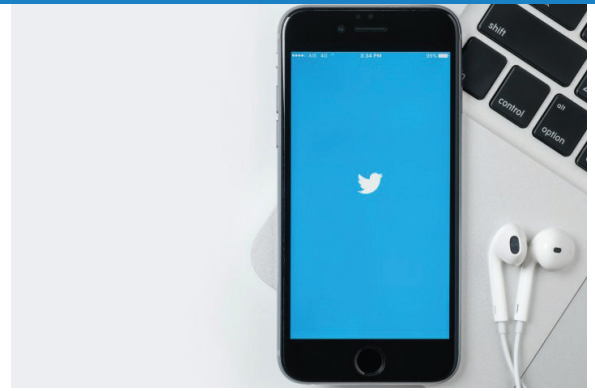
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**Get started**







## SITES

# How To Deactivate A Twitter Account When Someone Dies

Do you need to deactivate your deceased loved one's Twitter Account?  
Here's everything you need to know!

**Twitter Deactivation Options:** If the Twitter account owner dies, currently you only have the option of

**Deleting the account.** But according to [TechCrunch](#), in the wake of various user complaints, a memorialization option similar to that of Facebook, should be on its way soon. So stay tuned!

### Required Information

- User's Twitter account username (@username or twitter.com/username)
- Full name of the user
- Copy of death certificate
- Relationship to the user
- Your full name and email
- Copy of your proof of identification (ID, DL, Passport, etc.)

## How to Delete A Twitter Account (WITHOUT PASSWORD):

- Access the Twitter [Help Center](#)
- Submit a Ticket through [Twitter Privacy Form](#)
- Select "I want to request the deactivation of a deceased or incapacitated person's account."
- Fill in the report details with the required information





## How to Delete A Twitter Account (WITH PASSWORD):

1. Log in to Twitter with the your username and password
2. Go to your “Settings” page
3. Under Account Login and Security, select “Deactivate My Account”

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## SITES

# How To Deactivate A LinkedIn Account When Someone Dies

Do you need to deactivate your deceased loved one's LinkedIn Account?  
Here's everything you need to know!

**LinkedIn Deactivation Options:** If the LinkedIn account owner dies, you have the option of:

**Deleting** the account completely OR

**Extracting** data from the LinkedIn account, which allows you to view important messages, contacts and other information on the profile.

### Required Information

- User's full name and email address
- The URL to their LinkedIn profile
- Your name and relationship to the deceased person
- Date of death (Found on Death Certificate)
- Link to an obituary or relevant news article

## How to Delete A LinkedIn Account (WITHOUT PASSWORD):

1. Access the [LinkedIn Profile Removal](#) form
2. Have the following Required Information prepared
3. Fill in the form
4. Submit your request





## How to Delete A LinkedIn Account (WITH PASSWORD):

1. Log in to the LinkedIn account
2. Select the “**Me**” icon in the upper right corner
3. Select “**Settings & Privacy**” from the dropdown.
4. Under the Account management section of the Account tab, select “**Change**” next to “**Closing your LinkedIn account**”
5. Check your reason for closing your account and select “**Next**”
6. Enter your account password and select “**Close account**”

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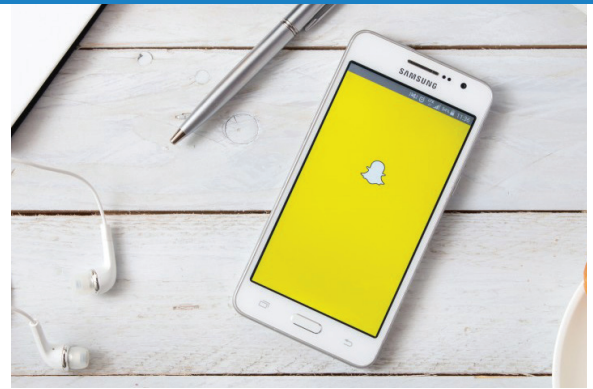
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## SITES

# How To Deactivate A Snapchat Account When Someone Dies

Do you need to deactivate your deceased loved one's Snapchat Account?  
Here's everything you need to know!

**Snapchat Deactivation Options:** If the Snapchat account owner dies, you have the option of:

**Deleting** the account completely

### Required Information

- Your name, email and Snap username
- Your age
- User's age and Snap username
- Death Certificate
- Your relationship to the user

## How to Delete A Snapchat Account (WITHOUT PASSWORD):

1. Access the [Snapchat Support](#) page
2. Under Contact Us, select **"A person has passed away"**
3. Prepare the following required information
4. Send in your request

**\*Note that you will be prompted to submit death certificate of user only after you send in request to delete account**





## How to Delete A Snapchat Account (WITH PASSWORD):

1. Access the [Snapchat Accounts Portal](#)
2. Log in to the account
3. Fill in the username and password again and select “Continue”

**\*Note that after 30 days, your account will be permanently deleted. This means that the account, account settings, friends, Snaps, Chats, Story, device data, and location data in our main user database will be deleted.**

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STEP 4

## Close Online Accounts & Cancel Subscriptions

With GoodTrust, you can put people in charge of closing or managing all types of online accounts. This is a crucial step for protecting your money and identity, so make sure you've assigned a [Trusted Contact](#) to take care of your online accounts.



Update Address &  
Forward Mail



Deactivate Yahoo  
Email Account



Delete Venmo  
Account



Delete Microsoft  
& Xbox Accounts



Deactivate Google  
Accounts & Gmail



Deactivate  
Apple Account



Delete Dating  
Apps



Memorialize  
Spotify Music







## HOW TO

# How to Forward or Stop Mail for the Deceased | GoodTrust



You may have heard the phrase, “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.” While this isn’t the United States Postal Service (USPS) official motto as is commonly believed, nearly nothing indeed stops the mail—including the deaths of the recipients.

This means deceased people’s loved ones are responsible for forwarding or stopping their mail.

Unfortunately, it isn’t quite as easy as making a phone call to the post office. That said, you can stop nearly all mail from arriving. Here, we’ll discuss some of the basics.

## How to Forward USPS Mail After Death

Whether alive or dead, forwarding mail means mail sent to a person goes to a new address.

There’s a lot going on when someone passes away but changing the deceased’s address should be handled quickly.

**Note:** If you know no one will be able to deal with this for a few weeks, you should be able to have the post office [hold an entire household’s mail](#) for up to 30 days, meaning the mail won’t arrive at all during that time.





## For a Deceased Loved One

You should [forward a deceased loved one's mail](#) if they lived alone or if the person they lived with can't emotionally or legally handle the mail.

There are three ways to forward the deceased person's mail:

- 1. If you lived with the person but need to forward the mail OR If you didn't live with the person and want to receive their mail: The deceased's [executor](#) needs to**
  - Visit the post office.
  - Provide proof that they are the executor and allowed to change the decedent's mailing address.
  - Fill out a Forwarding Change of Address Form at the post office.
- 2. If you lived with the person and need to forward specific mail:** Forward that mail as necessary, crossing out the current address and barcode, writing "Forward to [new address]" on the envelope, and dropping the mail in a place where it gets picked up.

Postal change of address (COA) forms can have [official dates](#) to begin forwarding mail on them, from 30 days in the past to 90 days in the future. USPS recommends filling out the form at least two weeks before the new address is necessary.

Whoever moves into your loved one's home after their death will receive all their mail if you don't fill out a postal change of address—meaning important papers may never make it to the person who needs to handle relevant issues.

**Note:** First Class Mail [is only forwarded](#) for 12 months, and periodicals are only forwarded for 60 days. The USPS expects that, within that time, you have contacted senders to let them know of the situation. After that time expires, mail will go to whatever address is on the envelopes. Therefore, you need to contact each place sending mail quickly to change the address or end subscriptions.

## For a Deceased Former Resident

Let's say you moved into a new place and are still receiving the mail of a former tenant or owner. You have options, but they're a bit different than the steps above.

Unfortunately, you can't go to the post office and fill out any forms, even if you know the forwarding address.

The first and most common method is to forward mail piece by piece, especially early on:

- **If you know where the mail should be delivered:**  
Cross out the address, write the "Forward to [new address]" on the piece, and then put it in a mail drop. Crossing out the barcode is often advised, too. Mail is automatically sorted, and that same piece may end up back at your home if the barcode isn't crossed out.
- **If you don't know where to send the mail:**  
Write "Not at this address" on the piece and drop the mail in an approved location. Do not cross out the current address.





- **If you don't know where to send the mail and know the person is deceased:**

You can choose to write “Deceased, Return to Sender” on the mailer. This may stop mail from being delivered, but isn't a guarantee.

You can also talk to your landlord or whomever you purchased the house from. They may have contact information for the executor or next of kin and can reach out to them about filling out a mail forwarding document.

Additionally, you can put a note to your postal carrier on your box, saying, “[Name] no longer lives here. Only deliver mail for [your name].” Again, this method isn't foolproof but may help.

Importantly, when mail is addressed to the previous owner “or current resident,” you probably can't forward the message to the former resident or return it to the sender. It's legally yours.

In any other situation, the mail is not legally yours, and you are generally barred by federal law from opening, disposing of, or destroying it. In those cases, you need to forward the mail.

If you've exhausted all other options, [contact USPS](#) and file a complaint.

## For Yourself

If you know you're not going to live much longer, setting up a forwarding address may be wise. However, this is a legal gray area, and you should [contact USPS](#) for advice. This is a gray area because it's a federal crime to open someone else's mail.

If it turns out you can't just send mail to someone else's address, consider having mail addressed to you “In care of” (C/O) so the post office knows the resident of that home is allowed to receive your mail—though C/O doesn't necessarily mean they can open it.

Since you don't know when you'll pass, it may be best to do this sooner than you hope to need to do it, just in case—especially if the new address is local and the homeowner can get your mail to you as needed.

You can [fill out a COA](#) form online for \$1.05 or at the post office for free.

## DMAchoice

A fast way to stop mail advertisements from reaching your mailbox is to [register for DMAchoice](#), a service offered by the Data & Marketing Association.

Signing up for DMAchoice costs \$2 and keeps many kinds of direct advertisements from coming to you, such as mail offers (credit cards, magazines, etc.), catalogs, and ads from competitors of companies you've shopped with. (If you have shopped with a company that sends you ads, you likely need to contact them directly to stop the mail.)

Caregivers may also register for the DMA on their loved one's behalf.





## How Much Does Mail Forwarding for the Deceased Cost?

There are two types of USPS mail forwarding: standard and Premium.

### Standard Mail Forwarding for the Deceased

You can sign up for standard mail forwarding for free at the post office, or for \$1.05 if the change of address is completed online.

When you choose to permanently forward a deceased's mail using the standard option, the following mail types are forwarded for:

- First-Class mail: 12 months
- Priority Mail: 12 months
- Priority Mail Express: 12 months
- First-Class Packages: 12 months
- Periodical subscriptions (magazines, newspapers): 60 days

USPS **will not** forward USPS Marketing Mail unless forwarding instructions have been specified.

### Premium Mail Forwarding for the Deceased

[Premium Forwarding Service Residential](#) (PFS-Residential) is meant to be an add-on to the standard mail forwarding option. It can be extended for up to one year and the fees are as follows:

- Enrollment fees (non-refundable)
  - \$20.90 if you enroll online
  - \$22.75 if you enroll at the post office
- Weekly fees
  - \$22.75 for each week of service whether you enrolled in person or online.

With PFS-Residential, all mail is delivered in a single weekly batch via USPS' Priority Mail® service, meaning it has tracking.

You can extend, shorten, or cancel your service at any time—there isn't a subscription aspect.

## How to Stop Advertisement Mail to the Deceased

Advertisements addressed to the deceased can be stopped in several ways.

Above all, you should fill out the DMA's [Deceased Do Not Contact](#) (DDNC) registration form. This is free.

However, the DMA and DDNC won't stop all ads. If the deceased was an official customer or donor or the mail is from certain excluded groups, you need to contact the organization directly and tell them about the death.





## Can I Stop All Mail to the Deceased?

If you're the executor of the deceased's estate and all relevant proceedings are complete, you can bring a copy of a probate order to the post office that services the decedent's address to end your participation as executor. Then, you can request to discontinue all mail service to that person.

That said, some mail may still arrive—particularly junk mail. Even as laws against this increase, businesses may find addresses for marketing purposes by purchasing them through direct mail companies, or they may decide to go back through old clients and start advertising to them for the first time in a good while. In these cases, you'll again need to contact the companies directly or, if possible, report them to any legally required opt-out group if that step was taken.

Their contact information may also be on websites that allow you to search for people's contact information. Some of these sites allow advertisers to use the information they find, and others don't. [The data doesn't disappear after death.](#)

Additionally, an old friend or another person unaware of the death may send a letter after finding the information on such a site. To remove your loved one's info from people search directories, you probably need to reach out to the sites individually.

It's worth noting that none of the information these sites gather is private—they scrape things like social media and other public sources. To further help stop unwanted mail, shut down any accounts where contact information may be or have once been public.

Here are some useful resources on:

- [How to deactivate Facebook](#)
- [How to delete Instagram](#)
- [How to delete YouTube and Google accounts](#)

Additionally, Google your loved one's name, address, email address, phone number, or other information to see where else it may be visible.

No matter what, there's a chance mail with your loved one's name on it will continue to arrive for years to come. This could be because a company missed the memo (even if you contacted them), the contact information was found online, or they're using "or current resident." The postal service can't stop this from occurring and are legally bound to deliver that mail.

## Change of Address Checklist: Who to Update After Death

You likely need to contact many companies and people after someone dies. While some of these should be contacted for other reasons, like canceling subscriptions or utilities, providing a forwarding address may help wrap up any final details.





Some of those to consider providing with the new address or mail cancellation notices include:

- USPS
- The DMA's DDNC
- Do not call lists
- IRS
- Their employer
- Their bank and other financial institutions
- Utility companies
- Landlord, nursing home, or assisted living facility
- Realtors involved in the home's sale or buyer's mortgage company
- Insurance companies
- Pension or retirement companies
- The home's new resident
- Friends and family who may be sending cards or memorial gifts
- Mail subscription services (e.g., magazines, subscription boxes, grocery delivery companies)
- Advertisers
- If they were a businessowner, the state department that oversees business registrations and operations

## How Digital Legacy Services Can Help with Mail Service for the Deceased

While using a digital afterlife service can't stop mail in a vacuum, it can speed up the process.

With GoodTrust, your loved one can [create a will online](#) and assign an executor to carry out all the mail forwarding and stop services once they are deceased. They can also assign trusted contacts to [close social media accounts](#), online shopping accounts, subscription services, and many [other online accounts](#) that could include their address.

Forwarding mail for a deceased person isn't always a simple process! Make sure you and your loved ones are prepared and [sign up for a free GoodTrust account](#) today.

ADDRESS CHANGE AFTER DEATH

# Checklist

### Communications

- ☐ USPS
- ☐ The DMA's "Deceased Do Not Contact (DDNC)"
- ☐ "Do not call" lists
- ☐ Mail subscription services  
(e.g., magazines, subscription boxes, grocery delivery companies)
- ☐ Advertisers

### Government

- ☐ Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- ☐ The state department  
If they were a businessowner, the department that oversees business registrations and operations

### Personal

- ☐ Their Employer
- ☐ Friends and family who may be sending cards or memorial gifts

### Finances

- ☐ Their bank and other financial institutions
- ☐ Pension or retirement companies

### Bills

- ☐ Utility companies
- ☐ Landlord, nursing home, or assisted living facility
- ☐ Insurance companies

### Residence

- ☐ Realtors involved in the home's sale or buyer's mortgage company
- ☐ The home's new resident

GOODTRUST

[www.mygoodtrust.com](http://www.mygoodtrust.com)





## SITES

# How To Deactivate A Yahoo Account When Someone Dies

**Do you need to deactivate your deceased loved one's Yahoo Account?  
Here's everything you need to know!**

**Yahoo Deactivation Options:** If the Yahoo account owner dies, you have the option of:

**Deleting** the account completely and suspending all billing and premium services

### Required Information

A letter detailing your request including the following info:

1. Yahoo ID of the user
2. A copy of the official documentation provided by the government, such as power of attorney, a letter from the estate, etc.
3. A copy of the Yahoo user's death certificate

## How to Delete A Yahoo Account (WITHOUT PASSWORD):

1. Send a letter containing the following required information to Yahoo

**\*Note that you will need to specify all the actions you'd like Yahoo to take in this letter (i.e. deleting account, stopping billing, deleting email records, etc.)**

### Address

Concierge Executive Escalations  
Verizon Media Inc.  
22000 AOL Way  
Dulles, VA 20166







## How to Delete A Yahoo Account (WITH PASSWORD):

1. Log in to Yahoo with the your email and password
2. Visit the company's "**Delete My Account**" page
3. Click the "**Delete My Account**" button

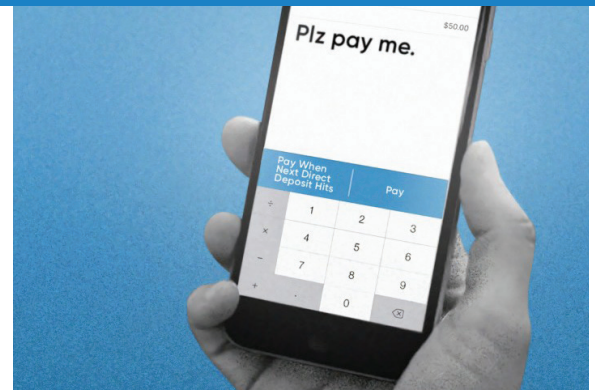
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## SITES

# How To Deactivate A Venmo Account When Someone Dies

Do you need to deactivate your deceased loved one's Venmo Account?  
Here's everything you need to know!

**Venmo Deactivation Options:** If the Venmo account owner dies, you have the option of:

**Deleting** the account completely OR

**Extracting funds** from the Venmo account, which allows you to withdraw or transfer the money to another account.

### Required Information

A letter detailing your request including the following info:

- User's full name and email address
- Your full name
- Relationship to the deceased person.
- A photo of your ID or Driver's License
- A copy of the death certificate
- A copy of the official documentation provided by the government, such as power of attorney, a letter from the estate, or other notarized form.

## How to Delete A Venmo Account (WITHOUT PASSWORD):

1. Have the following Required Information prepared





2. Email Venmo at [cardsupport@venmo.com](mailto:cardsupport@venmo.com) – make sure to detail what you would like to accomplish (i.e deleting, extracting funds, etc.)

## How to Delete A Venmo Account (WITH PASSWORD):

1. Sign in to the Venmo account
2. Select “**Settings**” at the top of the page
3. Near the bottom of the page, select “**Close My Venmo Account**”
4. Before you close your account, you’ll need to review your most recent statement. Once finished, select “**Close Account**” again

**\*Note that you’ll need to transfer any funds in the Venmo account to your bank account before deleting your account or return the funds to the sender. Any funds remaining in the Venmo account at the time you close your account will not be available to you without contacting customer support.**

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## SITES

# How To Deactivate A Microsoft Account When Someone Dies

Do you need to deactivate your deceased loved one's Microsoft Account?  
Here's everything you need to know!

**Microsoft Deactivation Options:** If the Microsoft account owner dies, you have the option of:

**Deleting** the account completely

**MICROSOFT CANNOT DELETE ACCOUNTS WITHOUT A PASSWORD UPON REQUEST!** According to Microsoft's privacy and legal regulations, they are unable to provide any data or information on abandoned accounts **UNLESS** you are a European user. **BUT** all inactive Microsoft accounts will be deleted after 2 years. Please read through Microsoft's policies on deceased accounts [here](#).

### Required Information

- User's full name and email address
- Your full name
- A photo of your ID or Driver's License
- A copy of death certificate
- A copy of the official documentation provided by the government, such as power of attorney, a letter from the estate, or other notarized form.

## How to Delete A Microsoft Account If You Live in Europe (WITHOUT PASSWORD):

1. Contact Microsoft Customer Service for your region
2. Have the following Required Information prepared





## How to Delete A Microsoft Account (WITH PASSWORD):

1. Go to [Close your Account](#) page
2. Sign in to your account
3. Check that the page shows the correct Microsoft account, and then select **“Next”**
4. Read the list and select the checkboxes to acknowledge you’ve read each item.
5. In the **“Select a reason”** drop-down list, choose the reason you’re closing the account.
6. Select **“Mark account for closure”**

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## SITES

# How To Deactivate A Google or YouTube Account When Someone Dies

Do you need to deactivate your deceased loved one's Google Account? Here's everything you need to know!

**Google Deactivation Options:** If the Google account owner dies, you only have the option of:

**Deleting** the account completely. Before the account is deleted you may be able to extract funds or specific account content if applicable. All of these options are only available once you submit a request for deletion to Google. Also note that if you need to extract anything from the account

you will need to automatically follow the steps below for "How to Delete A Google Account (WITHOUT PASSWORD)". Lastly, as Youtube is owned by Google, when submitting a request for deletion, you will have the option to include deletion of the Youtube account as well.

### Required Information

- User's full name and email address
- Your full name and email address
- Official date of death
- Copy of your ID or Driver's License
- Copy of death certificate





## How to Delete A Google Account (WITHOUT PASSWORD):

1. Access the Google Support page in order to submit a request for deletion
2. Prepare and fill-in the following Required Information – note: If the documents are not in English, please provide a certified, notarized English translation prepared by a professional translator.
3. Remember to select whether you'd like Google, Youtube or both deleted
4. Send in your request

**\*Note that within this same Google Support page, within the highlighted “What would you like to do?” section, you can change the action you’d like to take. You have the following options on this page:**

- Close the account of a deceased user
- Submit a request for funds from a deceased user’s account
- Obtain data from a deceased user’s account

**\*Note that Google has an Inactive Account Manager setting in which you can set up a plan for how your Google account and corresponding data will be handled if and when you are unable to use your Google Account any longer. [Learn More](#)**

## How to Delete A Google Account (WITH PASSWORD):

1. Log in to Google with your email and password
2. Visit your profile page by clicking on your photos
3. Under the Data & Personalization tab scroll down to the “Download, delete, or make a plan for your data” section where there is a link to “**Delete Your Account**”
4. Log in to your account again
5. Read through information about account deletion
6. Check the boxes and select the “**Delete the account**” button

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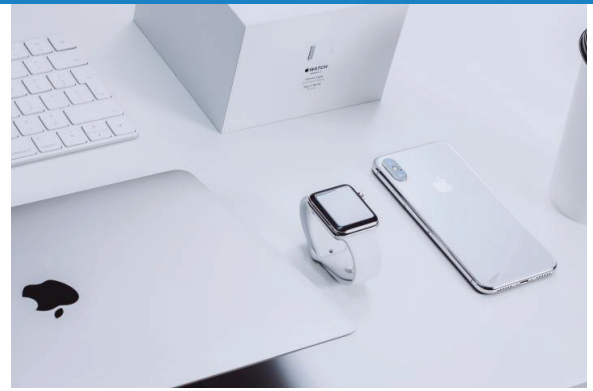
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## SITES

# How To Deactivate An Apple Account When Someone Dies

Do you need to deactivate your deceased loved one's Apple account?  
Here's everything you need to know!

**Apple Deactivation Options:** If the Apple account owner dies, you have the option of:

**Deleting** the account completely OR

**Extracting** data from the Apple account, which allows friends and family to view photos, videos and other information on iCloud as well as grant any access to requested personal information or devices.

### Required Information

- User's full name and email address
- Your full name and email address
- Death Certificate
- A copy of the official documentation provided by the government, such as **power of attorney, court order, a letter from the estate**, or other notarized form (Apple Representative will confirm which of these is necessary on a case by case basis)

## How to Delete an Apple Account (WITHOUT APPLE ID):

Unfortunately there is no easy way to delete an Apple account with no password. As the information living with the site can be very sensitive, you will have to go through Apple Customer Support and talk to a representative.

1. Access the Apple ID Support page
2. Select **"Other Apple ID Topics"**
3. Select **"Delete Your Apple ID Account"**
4. Without any password information you will need to contact Apple Support no matter what so select **"Call Apple Support Later"** options





5. Fill in your full name and the email of the deceased user
6. Copy down the the Apple support number and the Case ID provided on this page
7. Prepare the Required Information
8. Call Apple support, provide them with the case ID and explain your situation **(If you will need to extract data of any kind, don't forget to mention it to the support representative)**
9. Follow their instructions

**\*Note that devices locked with a passcode are protected by passcode encryption, and unless the next of kin knows the device passcode, Apple will not be able to remove the passcode lock on the device without erasing it.**

### How to Delete an Apple Account (WITH APPLE ID):

1. Access Apple's [Data and Privacy](#) page
2. Log in with Apple ID and Password
3. At the bottom of the page, select **"Request to delete the account"**
4. Choose a reason for deleting your account, click **"Continue"**
5. Follow the remaining prompts to permanently delete your Apple ID account

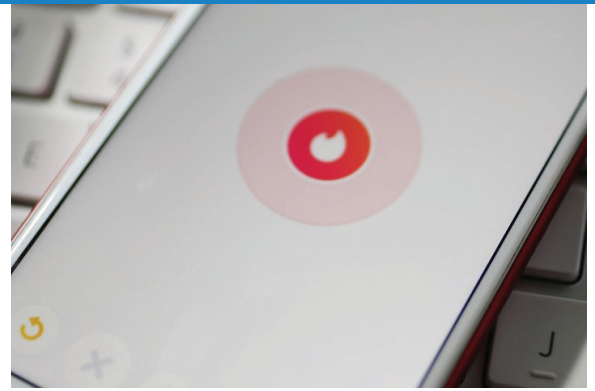
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## SITES

# How To Deactivate A Tinder Account When Someone Dies

Do you need to deactivate your deceased loved one's Tinder Account?  
Here's everything you need to know!

**Tinder Deactivation Options:** If the Tinder account owner dies, you have the option of:

**Deleting** the account completely, which will stop all charges that may be active

### Required Information

- User's full name and email address
- User's phone number

## How to Delete A Tinder Account (WITHOUT PASSWORD):

1. Access the [Tinder Customer Support](#) page
2. Select "Trouble with account log-in"
3. Select "I can't delete my account"
4. Fill in the required information and specify that you are deleting account for deceased user, in the description area
5. Submit your request

**\*Note** that Tinder usually deletes inactive users after a few months to keep the app updated. This is to prevent users from swiping on people who are no longer using the app. If Tinder doesn't get back to you, you can be fairly sure that the account will be deactivated and deleted with time.





## How to Delete A Tinder Account (WITH PASSWORD):

1. Access [Tinder's Account Portal](#)
2. Log-in to the account
3. Go to your Account Settings
4. Scroll down and select **"Delete Account"**
5. Confirm Deletion

**Need help?** GoodTrust is a trusted expert in managing digital legacy and our experienced team knows exactly how to help you quickly delete, memorialize or extract content from sites like these. If you sign-up now we'll even close down or memorialize Facebook for free!

Do you want to solve it today?



[Get started](#)





## SITES

### Delete Or Memorialize Spotify Playlists | GoodTrust

When a loved one passes away, it's important to preserve the music—and memories—that remind us of them. However, it's also important to protect the personal and financial information stored in their music streaming accounts, like Spotify. Plus, those streaming services could continue to bill your loved one for their subscription after they have passed.

Downgrading or deleting someone else's Spotify account is easiest if you've already been assigned to manage their music accounts in their digital will. Still, if they forgot to assign someone or the passwords aren't correct, there are options.

Below, we'll dig into how to cancel Spotify Premium and fully delete a Spotify account.

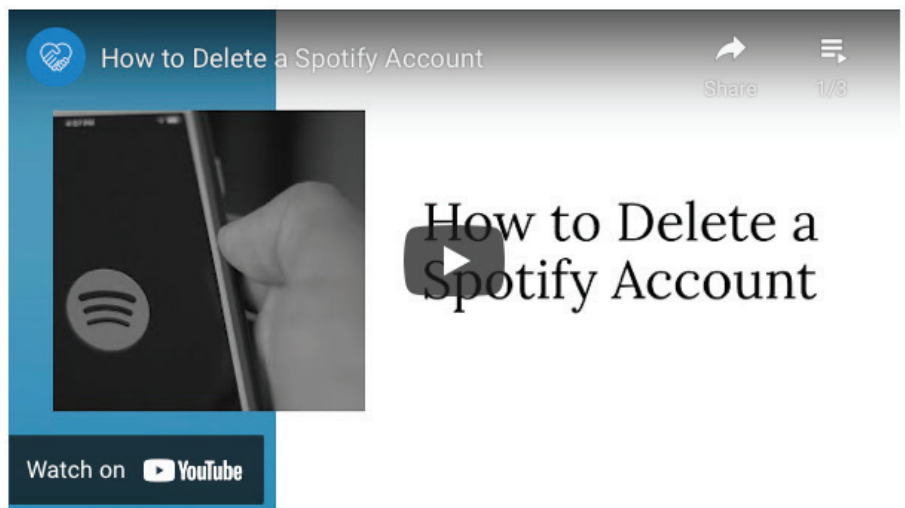
Remember: Deleting any app doesn't mean the account is gone. It just means the app is gone. So, no matter what app you're deleting, be sure to deactivate or cancel the account first.

#### How to End a Spotify Premium Subscription

Most often, canceling a standard or student Spotify Premium account involves:

1. Signing into the account
2. Select "Your plan"
3. Select "CHANGE PLAN"
4. Scroll down to "Spotify Free" and click "CANCEL PREMIUM"

*Note: Premium stays active until the next billing date, so you may need to wait until that date passes if you're trying to fully delete the account.*





## Canceling a Premium Subscription from a Partner Company

If you can't find an option to change the plan in Spotify, the Premium account is most likely associated with a partner company. These include mobile and internet providers, iTunes, or Starbucks, which provides Premium Spotify accounts for their employees (aka partners).

For service through mobile or internet providers, head to "Payment" on the user's Spotify account page to find out the service used and contact the provider.

If the subscription is via iTunes, you need to:

1. Sign in to the user's Apple device
2. Go to Settings
3. Click on "Subscriptions"
4. Find Spotify in the list of subscriptions and select "Cancel Subscription"

*Note: When you cancel an Apple account entirely, all subscriptions should automatically cancel themselves. However, if it makes you feel more secure, you can delete all subscriptions individually before canceling the account.*

For Spotify Premium provided by Starbucks, your best bet is to contact their PCC center at 866-504-7638. If they can't help you since you're not the partner, call Starbucks support at 1-800-782-7282.

Once Spotify Premium is canceled and the billing period has ended, you should be able to completely cancel the account as described earlier.

## Canceling a Duo or Family Premium Subscription

People in the same households can share premium Duo or Family Spotify Premium subscriptions. Duo plans for two people create playlists based on both their tastes. One person starts the plan as the manager and adds the other as a member. The manager can't be changed, but they can remove the plan member from the account.

A Family subscription includes up to six people in the same household. One person is the account manager, and the rest are guests. Like a Duo plan, the manager can add or remove members, but the manager can't be changed.

To close a Duo or Family Spotify account, the manager first needs to cancel the Premium subscription, using the steps outlined above. Then, they can officially close the account.

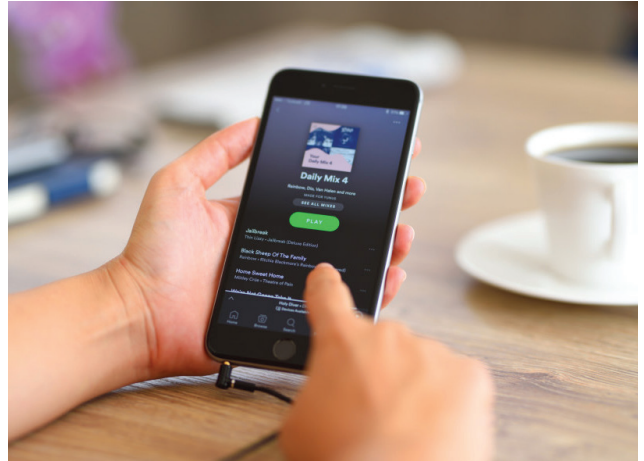


## How to Delete a Spotify Account (WITH PASSWORD)

Deleting a Spotify account removes everything that person had on there, including their playlists, saved music, and list of followers. Ending a premium subscription without deleting the account allows you to save their Spotify playlists and other music, though they'll now include ads and other limitations.

Here's how to delete a Spotify account:

1. Sign in.
2. Cancel the Premium subscription, if applicable\*
3. Click "Account" and choose "I want to close my account."
4. Spotify will ask if you want to "Close Account" or "Keep Free Account" - Select the option to "Close Account", meaning you will lose all saved Podcasts and music on the account



*\*After cancelling Premium, the subscription remains active until the next billing cycle. Once that date has passed, you should be able to fully delete the account.*

## Deleting a Loved One's Spotify After Death (WITHOUT PASSWORD)

All the above assumes you have the account holder's password. (If you were named as a trusted contact on their GoodTrust account, you should have access to their credentials.)

To delete a loved one's Spotify account after their death and without the password, contact Spotify directly.

## How to Memorialize and Share a Playlist

Spotify does not offer an option to memorialize an account; you either need to leave it active or delete it. However, you have a couple of options if you want to remember your loved one via their music.

One unique feature offered by Spotify is Spotify Codes. These are like barcodes or QR codes that lead you to a specific song or playlist. If your loved one had a favorite playlist, you could create a Spotify Code to share it with friends and family. You could even print the code on keepsakes or cards and hand them out to attendees at your loved one's funeral or memorial service.

Other options include keeping their free account active. Their email address would likely need to remain





active, especially if you're afraid you may need to reset their password.

Secondly, while it may take a while, you can re-create or use a selection of their music from their playlists on a different account controlled by you, then share that with others.

## Secure Your Spotify Account with GoodTrust

Our Spotify accounts don't just have the music we've grown to love over the course of our lives. They also have sensitive personal and financial information that needs protection against digital wrongdoers. A digital legacy service like GoodTrust can ensure your wishes are carried out and digital assets are protected.

You can include specific instructions on what to do with your Spotify account and ensure the right people have access after death.

[Get started with GoodTrust's digital legacy services for free today.](#)





## STEP 5

# End-of-Life Planning For A Loved One

Sometimes a person passes away but leaves behind no trace of their wishes or end-of-life plans. GoodTrust is here to help navigate those waters and provide options to memorialize them in heartwarming ways.

## Create digital memories

With GoodTrust's unique digital memories feature, you can upload a photo of your loved one and watch them come to life through the magic of AI.

[Read more](#)

## How to Write & Submit an Obituary

Writing an obituary can be emotional, and submitting it can be confusing. Use this step-by-step guide to learn how to write and submit a heartfelt obituary for your loved one.

[Read more](#)

## Plan a Celebration of Life

Planning a celebration of life is a beautiful way to honor someone who has passed away. Click here to get inspired and learn how to plan a celebration of life with some unique ideas.

[Read more](#)

## 8 creative memorial ideas

When a loved one dies, it can be hard to think of creative ways to remember them through the fog of grief. These 8 ideas can help you move forward.

[Read more](#)

## How to Plan a Funeral

Funerals often need to be planned quickly and can be a lot for one person to take on. This step-by-step guide aims to help simplify the process and explain what's involved.

[Read more](#)





## Create digital memories.

Our newest feature allows you to animate the faces in your family photos with amazing new technology that brings them to life. You can save the images with GoodTrust, download them, or share them with others.



Upload photo

### AS SEEN IN



## The home for your digital legacy



### Protect your digital life

Secure online accounts like email, social, financial, photos, subscriptions etc.



### Make memories come alive

Animate the faces in your family photos with amazing technology.



### Timeless Messages

Send Future Messages to loved ones.



### Safeguard critical docs

Store documents and share them with family at any time.

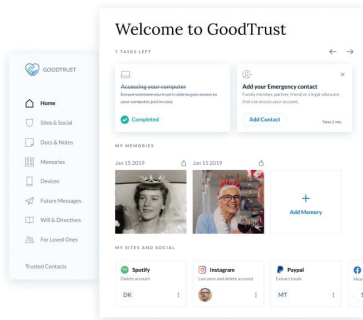


### Share legacy with family

Sharing memories and assets now, or only when you pass away.

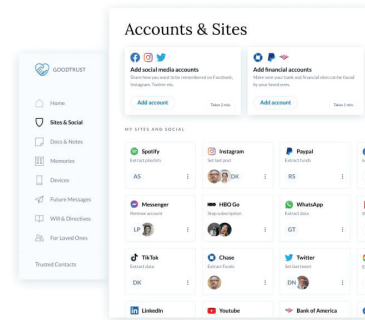


## What else can GoodTrust do?



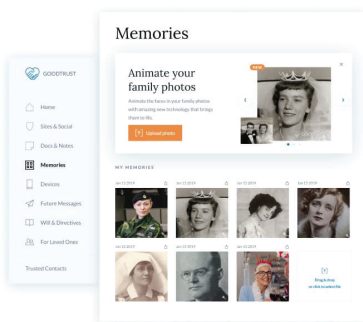
### PROTECT YOUR DIGITAL LEGACY AND ASSETS

Ensure that your online accounts and docs aren't lost forever.



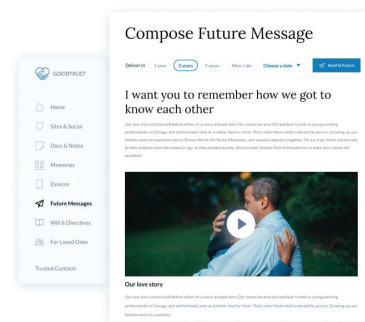
### MEMORIALIZE OR DELETE YOUR ACCOUNTS

Start a social media "Will" and plan for all social media pages.



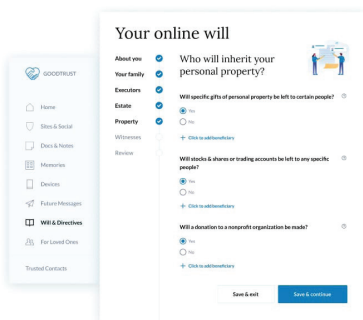
### MAKE YOUR PRICELESS PHOTOS COME TO LIFE

Create shareable AI animations from your photos.



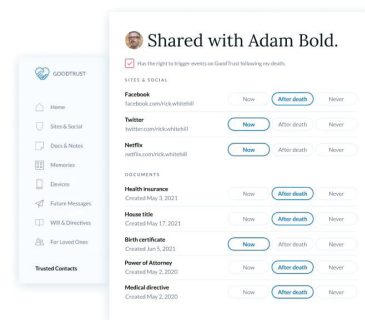
### LEGAL WILL, MEDICAL AND FUNERAL DIRECTIVES

Make your Legal Will and wishes known to your family.



### SEND MESSAGES TO THE FUTURE, EVEN AFTER DEATH

Share time capsule messages with your future self or friends.



### TRUSTED CONTACT SHARING TODAY OR AFTER DEATH

Any digital asset can be easily shared with anyone at any time.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### + Which images work best?

Choosing which image to upload can make a noticeable difference in your animation.

We suggest three primary tips:

- The head pose should be front-facing as much as possible (not looking to the side or up or down)
- Best to upload photos that are not blurry, too dark or too noisy (fuzzy)
- Avoid big toothy grins or anything obscuring the face like eyeglasses

### + How does this technology work?

When you upload a photograph, the deep-learning technology makes it come to life by adding movement to the face in the form of blinking, turning of the head and smiling. A short video captures this realistic movement with high quality that you can save to your GoodTrust Memories folder, download them and share with your family and friends.

### + Is this technology created by GoodTrust?

This technology was introduced by the Israeli startup D-ID that specializes in facial-reenactment technology using deep learning. GoodTrust integrated this technology to animate faces in uploaded photographs. We're working closely with D-ID as they continue to innovate it in new ways and we'll announce more features soon.

### + Where are the animations saved to? What can I do with them?

You can download the animations as videos to your personal computer and they are saved in your GoodTrust Memories folder. We encourage you to share your GoodTrust memories with friends and family. You can use the 'Share' option via a link, e-mail, Facebook, Messenger, Twitter, WhatsApp and TikTok. You can always find your animated photos in your GoodTrust Memories folder in your GoodTrust account.





+ Are the photos I upload to GoodTrust protected?

Yes. We do not share your animations, information or photos on our server with any third parties. GoodTrust provides the service yet the photos and animations belong only to you.

+ Can multiple faces be animated in a single photo?

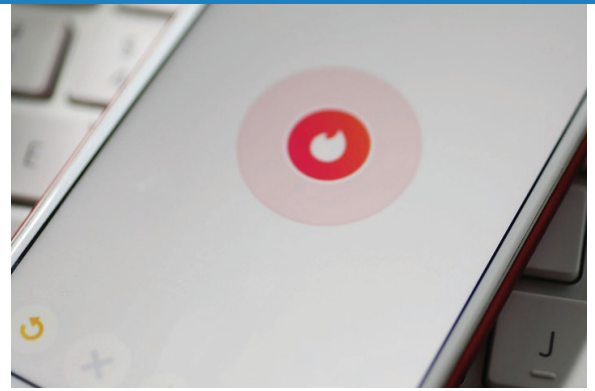
The algorithm chooses the most visible face on the picture. If you want a different face to be animated then you will need to crop the image before animating it. This will appear as a separate animation.

+ Is GoodTrust Memories part of an existing GoodTrust package?

Users who have a free GoodTrust plan will immediately be able to animate 3 photos. Premium users get 10 animations as a part of their package every month.

[Read more FAQs](#)





## HOW TO

# 8 Ideas To Memorialize Loved Ones | GoodTrust

Memorializing a loved one can be an effective way to process your grief. The [GoodTrust](#) team has come up with 8 creative memorial ideas that are different from the standard funeral practice. These suggestions are designed to inspire you to honor your loved one and maybe share with others who might need them. You might even make a [note in your will](#) to help inspire others after you pass away ([get started with your will here](#)).

### **1. Make a playlist of your loved ones favorite music**

Is there music they always listened to? Music you listened to together? Songs that remind you of them? Assembling a playlist in which these songs can be played after each other can spark the feeling you want to feel. You might also consider [preserving a series of Spotify playlists](#).

### **2. Memorializing social media profiles**

As a starting point, you can memorialize your loved one on Facebook. This allows friends and family to view their photos, videos and other memories but does not allow the account to be logged into, therefore securing the account from identity theft or data extraction. For more information we advise you to view [this article](#).



### **3. Create a digital scrapbook**

There are many services out there that allow you to compile your favorite photographs of your loved one into one album. Go to a quiet area and bring your inner creativity out as you assemble your loved ones' favorite photos, poems, quotes, movies, etc. - and remember to [preserve those photo accounts](#).

### **4. Frame something personal of theirs**

What was their most treasured item of clothing? Did you keep a note they ever wrote for you? An idea is to frame items that hold sentimental value to you or your loved one, so when you walk past the framed items it makes you think of them.







### 5. Create digital memories

If you want to bring old photographs to life you can also use the new amazing online service by GoodTrust. [GoodTrust Memories](#) allows you to animate a face in your family photos. You can save the images with GoodTrust, download them, or share them with others. Now you can even choose whether you want to have a nostalgic or happy expression.

### 6. Pour them a sentimental drink

If you're pouring yourself a drink and making a nice dinner for yourself or your friends, pour your loved one a drink too and take a moment to honor them. And maybe raise a toast in their honor.

### 7. Dedicate a day to them

Once a year either get together with the people who are mourning too or stay by yourself and celebrate your loved ones life. It could be on the day of their birth for example and you chose to go do something active, whatever you think is most suitable. This day you chose is their day in which you honor their life.

### 8. Donate to a cause they cared about

Is there a disease they died of? A charity they were passionate about? Think about donating or actively volunteering at the cause in honor of your loved ones passions. Maybe invite friends and family members to participate as well.

Thinking of anything related to end-of-life planning? Get started today with [GoodTrust](#)



#### Select emotion

What emotion should your animated photo have?



☒ Fun



☐ Nostalgic

Continue





## HOW TO

# How To Write A Great Obituary | GoodTrust



The time between a death and a funeral is often two to four weeks, particularly if the funeral will include an open casket. Therefore, writing the obituary often needs to happen quickly while the grief is still very fresh.

Thankfully, there's a traditionally accepted formula used for obituaries that may help.

This article explores how to write and submit an obituary, provides some examples of famous (and infamous) obits to inspire you, and provides details about how an online legacy service may be able to help.

## Prepare to Write the Obituary

Unless the deceased chose to write their obituary, which happens occasionally, you need to do some legwork before getting started.

Legally, no specific person needs to write the obituary, nor is someone required to write it alone. Unless the deceased specified who they want writing it, this task can be given to a person or group who knew the person well enough to write a fantastic obituary.

## Reach Out to Friends and Family

Reaching out to close friends and family can help inform what goes into the obituary.

Ask them to share memorable stories and photos from your loved one's life. (This is also a good time to start getting people involved in the [funeral planning](#).)

You can ask them to provide or verify information about the decedent's:

- Date and place of birth
- Full name and any nicknames
- Consider asking if any of the nicknames have any fun stories behind them
- Friends, mentors, and family members that should be mentioned in the obituary
- Personality traits





- Preferred tone for the obituary (e.g. somber or humorous?)
- Exact cause of death, if they were an organ donor, or any other end-of-life details you may want to include (optional)

## Choose Where to Publish

Before writing up the obituary, figure out where you want to publish, what information you want to be shared in each (e.g., do you want funeral details in one but not another?), and how to meet the individual publications' requirements.

Some common places to publish obituaries are:

- **Printed newspapers:** Local or national depending on your situation; often has a per-character or per-inch cost.
- **Obituary sites:** Often less limited in length; usually less expensive than printed papers, if not free.
- **Funeral home or church website:** Usually built into the cost of the funeral services; restrictions vary by location.
- **Work-related publications:** Could be good if the deceased was well-known in their field; requirements vary.
- **Community publications:** If active in the community, the death may be worth announcing in a local newsletter or similar; requirements vary.
- **Social media:** Can create a unique memorial page with an obituary or post it on the deceased's own [memorialized Facebook](#) or a similar account; very few restrictions.

There may be other options based on your loved one's unique circumstances.

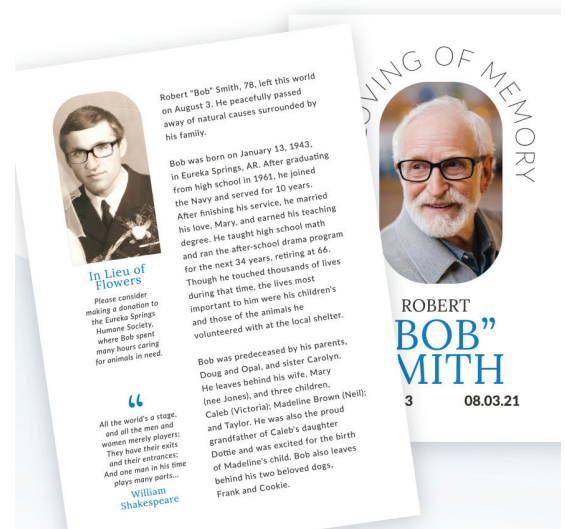
## How to Write and Submit an Obituary in 8 Steps

When writing an obituary, there is a set of steps people typically follow. Below, we'll detail each step and provide examples of what those steps look like using an imaginary person named "Bob Smith."

For our purposes, "Bob Smith" was a 78-year-old man who was in the Navy, went on to become a teacher, had a wife and three children, and passed away from natural causes. These basics of "Bob" guide the writing, but our examples will give him some personality that can't be shown with just this kind of demographic information.

So, some of these options may seem a bit "out of the box." But, remember: This is all about how that person would want to be memorialized.

Let's dig in.





## 1. Announce the Death

Obituaries usually begin with an announcement of the person's death. It can include any combination of date, age, cause, location, and names/nicknames of the deceased. A few examples could be:

- Robert "Bob" Smith, 78, left this world on August 3. He peacefully passed away of natural causes surrounded by his family.
- Robert "Bob" Smith passed away on August 3, 2021, at the age of 78.
- Bob (don't you dare call him Robert!) Smith exited this world on August 3 at the age of 78. Though it was of natural causes, he asked us to make up something more interesting. But, we'll never be as creative as he was.

Some people opt to mix this section with the next part.

## 2. Discuss Milestones and Interests

Next, people usually include significant achievements and milestones of the person they loved. This section is open to interpretation and can include:

- **Important dates:** Birth, graduations, marriage, retirement, business openings, etc.
- **Academic achievements:** Degrees, certifications, and where they were earned
- **Work achievements:** Where they worked, promotions they got, awards won, etc.
- **Volunteerism and other community involvement:** Charities, non-profits, or local organizations they volunteered at
- **Hobbies:** What were they passionate about? What did they do in their free time?
- **Military service (if relevant):** Any participation in the military, for how long, and any achievements they earned during their service

There is no such thing as a "boring life," and anything you or they would be proud of can go in this section.

For Bob's obituary, we could write:

- Bob was born on January 13, 1943, in Eureka Springs, AR. After graduating from high school in 1961, he joined the Navy and served for 10 years. After finishing his service, he married his love, Mary, and earned his teaching degree. He taught high school math and ran the after-school drama program for the next 34 years, retiring at 66. Though he touched thousands of lives during that time, the lives most important to him were his children's and those of the animals he volunteered with at the local shelter.
- Eureka Springs, AR, welcomed Bob into this world on June 13, 1943. He later joined the Navy, married his wife at 28, and became a long-time teacher and drama program director. After retiring, he spent a lot of time volunteering with his local animal shelter.





- Bob made his dramatic entrance on June 13, 1943, in Eureka Springs, AR, after putting his mother through 36 hours of labor—something she never let him forget. After finishing high school “solidly in the middle of his class,” he joined the Navy and, subsequently, refused to be on a boat for the rest of his life. After leaving the service, he married his long-suffering wife and tormented many math and theatre students for 34 years before freeing them. He spent the rest of his days volunteering with animals and yelling at his television.

### 3. List Family Members

After going through the interests and milestones of the person, their family is traditionally mentioned. Close friends and pets may also be included, depending on the person.

Family members who have already passed are often mentioned with phrases like “preceded in death” or “the late”. In addition, spouses’ former last names are often in parentheses, as are children’s spouses’ first names.

As mentioned, Bob was married with three children. His obituary could read:

- Bob was predeceased by his parents, Doug and Opal, and sister Carolyn. He leaves behind his wife, Mary (nee Jones), and three children, Caleb (Victoria); Madeline Brown (Neil); and Taylor. He was also the proud grandfather of Caleb’s daughter Dottie and was excited for the birth of Madeline’s child. Bob also leaves behind his two beloved dogs, Frank and Cookie.
- Bob’s parents, Doug and Opal, and sister Carolyn are waiting for him on the other side. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Mary, and children, Caleb (Victoria), father of Dottie; Madeline Brown (Chris), mother-to-be of a new grandchild; and Taylor. Additionally, he leaves behind his prized Great Danes, Frank, and Cookie.
- Bob is now the problem of his parents, Doug and Opal, and his sister Carolyn. He doesn’t need the ego boost, so don’t tell him he’ll be missed by his wife, Mary, and three children: Caleb (Victoria), Madeline Brown (Chris), and Taylor. His granddaughter Dottie and unborn grandchild probably won’t believe the stories we tell about him, but we’ll do our best. He’ll probably be most missed by his dogs, Frank and Cookie, as he was the never one to refuse them a treat.

### 4. Provide Funeral Information

Including funeral or reception information is optional depending on whether you want this open to the public. However, if you do, be sure to include any details someone may need. This can include:

- Type of service (wake, funeral, [celebration of life](#))
- Date and time of the service(s)
- Location and exact address of the event(s)
- Burial location (if relevant)





If no service will be held or the service will not be open to the public, you can state that or leave the information out entirely. If the memorial will be held at a later date, say that. A few ways to phrase things include:

- Funeral services will be held at ABC Funeral Home (1234 Main Street) on August 20 at 3:00 pm.
- A full church service will be held at ABC Church at 3:00 pm on August 20.
- An informal, casual memorial will be held at Caleb's home on August 20 at 3:00 pm.
- No service is planned at this time, but the information is to come.
- There will be no service.
- An intimate service is planned, and it will not be open to the public.

## 5. Tell People What to Send

People often want to do something, anything, to help out in a time of grief. When writing the obituary, be specific about what people can do to honor your loved one and help out the family.

Frequently, you'll see the phrase "In lieu of flowers..." as flowers are a traditional gift to send to the loved one's family. Instead of flowers, people often ask for:

- Donations to a favorite charity.
- Funds for medical and funeral costs.
- Money for their children or grandchildren's education.
- Performing a random act of kindness in the loved one's memory.

## 6. Select a Photo

Obituaries almost always have at least one photo at the top. The photos can be serious or goofy, professional or unprofessional, current or from years ago.

Be sure they're something that person would want to be included and shows them in a good light. This doesn't mean it has to be a formal photo but one that shows off their personality and makes them look great, even if they're making a silly face.

The photos almost always only have the person alone. However, some may be with a loved one, such as a photo from their wedding day. The latter is especially true if family members died together or in short order.

If you struggle to find a photo that meets all these requirements, see if you can get help from a friend adept in photo editing to make a great photo even better.





A few examples for Bob could be:



A formal, smiling photo showing a gentle side of him



A serious, dramatic photo, showing his more intellectual side



Even a silly photo showing his enjoyment of pizza and beer



You can also choose a photo from your loved one's younger days. This could be something like a photo of them in their military uniform, dressed for a special event, or a casual photo they always loved.

## 7. Conclusion (Optional)

While many obituaries end on the funeral or donation information, some choose to end with a favorite memory, quote, or summation of the person's life.

Since he was a drama teacher for most of his life, we might end Bob's obituary with:

*All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts...*

--William Shakespeare

## 8. Submit the Obituary

Each place you plan to submit an obituary to has its own requirements.

Newspapers and online publications will likely have the requirements posted on their website. However, you may need to reach out directly when it comes to community or industry publications.

In most cases, print and online publishers ask for a digital version of the obituary. This could mean emailing them the obituary or mailing them a USB drive with the piece.

Before you submit the obituary, be sure to thoroughly proofread it and ask someone else to do the same. Additionally, ask if you can see the obituary before it's published to verify everything looks like it should.





## Sample Obituaries

If you need inspiration, you can look in your local newspapers or at obituary websites like [Legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com). However, here are a few obituaries of famous people—or those who became famous because of their viral obituaries—to get you started:

- **Emily DeBrayda Phillips:** A heartfelt and funny viral obituary from 2015, written by the deceased upon learning of a cancer diagnosis.
- **Lou Reed:** An unusual obituary written by his wife, created as a letter to neighbors instead of following the usual format.
- **Jonas Salk:** Half news article, half obituary of the person to first discover a polio vaccine.
- **Rhea Woltman:** One of the Mercury 13, Woltman's obituary generally follows the traditional format, adding her plans for her remains.
- **Mary A. "Pink" Mullaney:** Another viral obituary, this one featuring advice "Pink" gave all of her loved ones.
- **Eric A. Sauser:** Viral obituary written by his wife with a combination of humor and heart.

## Memorialize and Protect Your Loved One

Writing an obituary can be an emotional and cathartic experience. But remembering your loved one doesn't have to stop once the final draft has been published.

With [GoodTrust](#), you can help ensure the safety of your loved one's digital afterlife and create unique ways to memorialize them. [Animate a photo](#) of your loved one for use on their memorial page or to share with friends and family online. If there's still time, have your loved one create future messages to send to those they love on a specified date.

Memories, obituaries, and things passed down [in their will](#) aren't the only things a loved one leaves behind when they die. They also leave behind an extensive [digital afterlife](#) that needs to be memorialized and protected.

Even at our free level, you can take care of a good deal of you or your loved one's digital assets, estate planning, and last goodbyes.

[Try GoodTrust for free today.](#)





## HOW TO

# How To Create A Funeral Directive | GoodTrust

## What is a funeral directive?

Funeral directives detail a persons wishes around their funeral including services like depositions and memorial. Decisions also include whether you'd like to be buried or cremated, where your remains will reside, how the funeral will be funded or how you'd like your funeral to be conducted. A funeral directive can be created at any time but is often a complement to medical directives and sometimes also a will. A funeral directive usually appoints a primary person that holds the power to carry out the terms of your funeral. If you're ready to get started, you can [create yours with GoodTrust here](#).

## In what circumstances could my funeral directive be overturned?

While in most states written wishes of the deceased must be legally honored, there are a few where funeral directives can potentially be overturned. It is still important to record your wishes despite these circumstances, just make sure to do research on the laws specific to your state so you are informed of these details. Funeral directives can also be overturned if the wishes are impractical, illegal, or financially taxing.

## 8 Steps to filling out your funeral directive

1. Appointee
2. Death Announcement
3. Organ Donations
4. Final Disposition of My Body
5. Service in My Memory
6. Your funeral
7. Remaining Estate
8. Additional end of life wishes



## Step 1: Appointee

The appointee will carry out the terms of your funeral directive and make sure all your wishes are respected. If you have any specific requests, they can use their power to make sure these plans become reality. An appointee can be your spouse or executor, but that is not a requirement.

## Appointee.

### Who will carry out the terms of this Funeral directive?

Name Jessica	Surname Smith
Your relationship to appointee Appointee is my sibling	
Email jessi.smith@icloud.com	
Phone number +1 420 698 7457	

[+ Add backup appointee?](#)

## Step 2: Death Announcement

Decide whether or not you would like to have a death announcement for everyone outside your close family and friends. If you do wish to have one, you can decide whether you want it posted on social media like facebook, or an official obituary in the newspaper. If you have any special requests, let your appointee know by specifying "other".



## Death Announcement.

### Death Announcement.

- ☒ I do wish to have a death announcement.
- ☐ I do not wish to have any announcement published online or in print upon my death.

SELECT ONE OR MULTIPLE OPTIONS

- ☒ Social Media post
- ☒ Obituary
- ☒ Death notice
- ☐ Other





### Step 3: Organ Donations

Confirm if you are a registered donor in your state or not. If you are, let your family know which one of your organs you would like to be donated, and for what cause. Things you may want to consider include which...



## Organ Donations.

### Registered donor

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

SELECT ONE OPTION

- ☐ I do not wish to donate my organs  
☒ I wish to donate my organs upon my death

### Step 4: Final Disposition of My Body

Now it is time to decide on your final disposition. This is a big decision, so you should take some time to think about the choices listed below. Think about previous funerals in your family and perhaps and if you would like have similar arrangements.



## Final Disposition of My Body.

SELECT ONE OPTION

- ☐ Burial  
☒ Cremation  
☐ Mausoleum  
☐ Donation to science  
☐ I have no preference as to how my body is dealt with  
☐ Not quite sure yet  
☐ Other





## Step 5: Service in My Memory

Your funeral service is the next important part and it will determine how your loved ones will remember you. If you do want a formal funeral service, you have different options to choose from.

## Step 6: Your funeral

This is the main part of your funeral directive. Pick the location of your church or any other accommodation where your funeral is going to be held. You can then decide who gets to attend your funeral and you can appoint an officiant if you have one. You will also determine if you want your body to be presented at your funeral, and who will hold a eulogy. You can also note what kind of music you have in mind, and who should play it. Other arrangements like flowers, dress code, and streaming services are open to your choice.

# Services in My Memory.

### Do you want formal services

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

#### SELECT ONE TYPE OF SERVICES

- ☒ Memorial  
☐ Visitation  
☐ Funeral  
☐ Graveside  
☐ Not sure  
☐ Other

# Your Funeral.

### Location address (Church etc.)

Street Address  
1000 Bryant St

City  
Palo Alto

State  
CA

### Choose guests.

- ☐ Closed Service  
☐ Open Service  
☒ Family and friends  
☐ Anyone specific you wish





## Step 7: Remaining Estate

This step determines how your funeral will be financed. You should check if you have an insurance that partly or fully covers funeral costs. If you do not have an insurance, you can finance the funeral by taking money out of your estate. The total costs of a funeral depend on location, service, memorial and other arrangements. According to the latest data from the National Funeral Directors Association, the average cost of a funeral and burial is \$7,360.

## Step 8: Additional end of life wishes

In this step, you can write out any additional wishes you have for your appointee. Think about special people you would like to thank or any other personalized arrangements made in your name.

### Additional end of life wishes.

We understand that confronting yourself with your own mortality is often scary and intimidating. Having to think about your own funeral is burdening and lays heavy on ones shoulder. However preplanning your funeral and expressing your wishes will give your family security and doesn't leave them in the dark.

### What more features does GoodTrust have?

In addition to funeral directives, GoodTrust also offers more features and directives to ensure your legacy is secured. This includes our [free will](#) service and will soon include an advance healthcare directive and POA (power of attorney). You can find more information on GoodTrust's services in the articles linked below.

Get started with your [free GoodTrust account](#) today and explore everything related to your digital legacy and estate planning.

## Remaining Estate.

SELECT ONE OPTION TO FINANCE YOUR FUNERAL

- ☐ Not specified
- ☒ Take it out of my estate
- ☐ My insurance policy

## Additional end of life wishes.

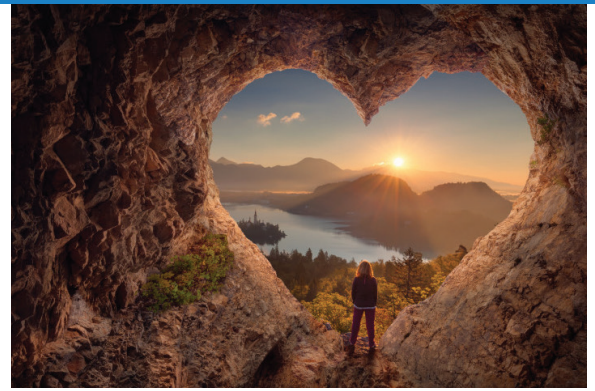
Additional thoughts regarding my end of life arrangements.

Please specify

Add a deputy and share it with relevant people.

Shared with  
Nobody yet





## HOW TO

# How to Plan a Celebration of Life | GoodTrust

They say there are only two things we can be sure of: death and taxes. But, there's a third thing we can all be sure of, too. After death, people linger on as stories and memories. That's why we have celebrations of life. Here, we'll discuss what a celebration of life is, how it differs from a funeral, the steps for planning one, and a few creative ideas for what to do for one.



## What Is a Celebration of Life?

A celebration of life is about the joy of having known someone, not the sadness of having lost them. Therefore, at one of these events, the atmosphere tends to be light, with loved ones sharing stories of their time with the person who has passed.

In other words, it isn't supposed to be sad. Tears may be shed, but the point is remembering the person as they lived, not as they died.

## Celebrations of Life vs. Funerals, Memorial Services, and Wakes

Funerals, memorial services, and wakes are usually somber occasions. While there may be some laughter and sharing of fond memories, the fact of the death tends to prevail.

Some choose to have a wake, funeral, or memorial service, and a celebration of life, while others choose to do only one or two of these events. However, if all of these events are held, the order and situations tend to be:

1. **Wake:** People can view the body before any formal events; usually reserved for close family and friends.
2. **Funeral or Memorial Service:** Somber event open to a larger group (though not necessarily open to the public); often involves an official religious ceremony if desired.
  - *Funerals typically have the body present, while memorials don't.*
  - *A burial or release of ashes may occur afterward, with some or all guests invited.*





3. **Celebration of Life:** Lighthearted event focusing on stories of the person's life; usually held at a home, event space, or similar.

The decedent's body is usually at the funeral and wake but not the memorial service or celebration of life. Additionally, [obituaries](#) often include dates for anything more public, like the funeral or memorial service. However, wakes and celebrations of life are often left off, as those tend to be more intimate.

## How to Plan a Celebration of Life

You can plan your own celebration of life if you want, just as you can [plan your own funeral](#). However, you could also leave a set of ideas or leave it entirely up to your loved ones. Either way, the steps to planning a celebration of life are largely the same. Below is a list of decisions to be made and a suggested 10-step order in which to take them.

If you get stuck on a step, remember, your loved one may have left behind their preferences in their will. Make sure to consult it while you're going through the process below.

**Note:** *If you're planning the event for your loved one after their death, we suggest making this a group project. Choose a close family member or friend to help you out, as they may know of different wishes or loved ones than you do. Plus, even though this is supposed to be a comparatively happy event, it may be overwhelming.*

### 1. Decide Who to Invite

Unlike a funeral or memorial service, to which many people from all parts of the deceased's life are typically invited, a celebration of life tends to be reserved for only closest friends and family.

Making a guest list first can help you choose a location based on the number of guests. However, you could also choose a location first and have that help determine how many people to invite.

### 2. Choose a Location

Pick a place to hold the event. Perhaps have a couple of locations in mind if your first choice is booked for your intended timeframe.





You could consider a place that was important to the deceased or an event or meeting space, depending on your needs. For example, you choose the deceased's or a loved one's home, a favorite restaurant or bar, a church basement, a state park, or even a unique location like a library meeting room if they loved reading.

Talk to any potential locations about their rules, costs, and other expectations before making a final decision.

### 3. Determine a Theme (If Desired)

Once you have chosen a location and understand what they allow, decide if you want to theme the event. (Ideas below!)

Consider things your deceased loved one adored, like a TV show, book, hobby, band, or color. Then, if you want to, you could theme the event around that—seeing things that made the person unique could bring smiles to people's faces.

Using this theme, you can choose foods, decorations, a dress code, and more. Of course, if you opt against a theme, that's okay. You can plan this like you would any other party.

### 4. Hire Vendors

If you want to hire vendors for the event, such as a caterer, bartender, or photographer, do this as early as possible.

Vendors aren't necessary for this type of event, though. It can be as formal or informal as you want. It could even be a potluck!

### 5. Decide on Food and Drink

As mentioned, you can have this event be as formal or informal as you want, including the food.

If you choose to have the celebration of life in a restaurant or bar, determine if you need to have a pre-fixed menu for your group size. For example, in an at-home situation, you could have people sign up to bring certain types of food or drinks or order in from a restaurant. Or, you could have a fully catered affair.

There is no wrong way to do this, but if you have a theme or your loved one particularly enjoyed a particular type of food or drink, you could ensure those are incorporated.

### 6. Send Invitations

Invitations can be sent in the mail or via email. If you've chosen a theme, you can theme the invitations around that.

Remember, this isn't a funeral. The invitation can be a celebratory one. Make it clear what the event expectations are, such as attire (casual vs. formal or even costumes) or if a donation bin for a favorite charity will be available.

Ask for RSVPs so you can finalize plans accordingly.





## 7. Ask People to Speak (If Needed)

If you plan on having official speeches at the celebration of life, ask the people you'd like to speak if they'd be willing and able to do so. Make it clear this is optional, and it shouldn't be treated like a eulogy. Instead, to use a wedding comparison, they should think of it more as a best man or maid of honor speech where they share happy memories of their beloved friend or relative.

## 8. Create a Playlist

What's a party without music? You could use your loved one's Spotify, Pandora, or other music account to create a playlist, or ask people to respond with a song they want to be played as part of their invitation RSVPs.

## 9. Pick Photos for Display

Find pictures of the deceased with their loved ones or in fun situations. You might opt to display the pictures as a slideshow that plays throughout the celebration of life.

Search through their social media, such as their Facebook page and Instagram to find pictures. Ask people to mail or email you pictures of the deceased to be included in the slideshow.

You can also create digital memories by posting these photos or videos online for others to see. It's even possible to animate a favorite photo of them to make a static image come to life.

## 10. Enjoy Remembering Your Loved One

Once the party has begun, it's time to relax. Even though you're technically the host, you should be sure you take some deep breaths and enjoy speaking with the other people who loved the person you all miss so much.

If these 10 steps sound like a lot, you could hire an event planner or divvy up the responsibilities between multiple people.

# 8 Unique Celebration of Life Ideas

Celebrations of life should be customized to reflect the life the person lived. However, even with that in mind, you may find yourself stumped—even if you're planning your own.

Here are eight ideas you could use as jumping-off points for planning a celebration of life. Most of them can be altered slightly to meet the personality and age of the one you're memorializing, but above all, remember: this is about them, no one else, so make it as unique as you can!





## 1. Establish a Day in Their Honor

At the celebration of life, you can establish a yearly day in your loved one's honor. This could be their birthday, death day, a day near their favorite holiday, or even a day that combines their lucky numbers.

Tell people that every year on that day, they should do something special to remember that person. It could be a random act of kindness, donating to a charity, or simply drinking a can of their favorite soda. Anything to remember them will do!



## 2. Go All-In On a Theme

A celebration of life should celebrate exactly who your loved one was, and that could mean making it a bit unusual.

Did they love Halloween and throwing costume parties? Have a costume party! Were they a superfan of a sports team? Theme the entire event around that team. Consider going to a game if possible, too, and see if you can get some recognition for them at the event. Was prom one of their favorite memories? Have everyone come dressed in prom attire! Were they a member of a fandom? Theme everything around that! (If you don't know much about the fandom and can't find someone in your life to help, consider joining a social media group for it—chances are people will be happy to provide ideas.)

The list of choices goes on and on.

Throw the kind of party they would be thrilled to attend. Don't worry about what others would find "appropriate."



## 3. Host a Celebration of Life Scavenger Hunt

A scavenger hunt could be a fun way to celebrate someone's life. Put people in teams and have them travel the area to take photos or gather things the person loved.

When the hunt is done, you can choose to have a winning team or not. But, all teams should get some prize to remind them of the day. Additionally, find a place to post all the photos and share with all participants.





## 4. Have a White Elephant Gift Exchange

White elephant gift exchanges are fun events where participants each take turns opening gifts, with the opportunity to swap with another person if they want their gift. At the end of the exchange, everyone ends up with a gift to take home. White elephants are usually filled with laughter and conversation.

For a celebration of life, you could ask guests to bring gifts that remind them of the deceased. Before commencing, make sure everyone is familiar with the [rules of white elephant exchanges](#).



## 5. Crowdsource a Celebration of Life Memory Book

Have everyone at the event write a memory of the loved one in a book. This could be cathartic for them and a great way for their remaining family members to remember and know exactly who this person was.

You could ask folks who can't attend to email memories to you so you can include them as well.

**Note:** This doesn't necessarily need to only include kid-friendly stories, even if the book is intended for their children. Perhaps have a way for them to mark pages with more grown-up stories.



## 6. Hold an Auction

You could host a silent (or not silent!) auction to raise money for a charity the deceased loved, an educational fund for the children in their lives (their own, grandkids, nieces/nephews, etc.), or to help the family cover medical and funeral expenses.

Ask loved ones to offer their skills and auction off things like homemade cookies or artwork, a few hours of babysitting or dog walking, or even just a high five.

You could, of course, host a fundraiser or have a collection box out for this purpose. However, an auction is a creative way to raise money and doesn't pressure anyone to give money they may not have.







## 7. Make It a Birthday Party

You don't need to host a celebration of life immediately after a funeral or memorial service. Even if it's months later, you can host a birthday party for your loved one, with all the trappings of a typical party.

Gifts could be donations to the loved one's family or a charity. Bring a cake with candles to be blown out by the wind, all attendees while holding fans, or, if they agree, the deceased's spouse or children.

If they would have enjoyed a pinata, pin the tail on the donkey, or similar, go for it!



## 8. Use Their Bucket List to Celebrate Their Life

If your loved one had a bucket list, use the celebration of life to complete the items they weren't able to get to. Whether it's taking a vacation or skydiving for the first time, completing your loved one's bucket list items is a great way to continually celebrate their life. You could make it an annual event, where each year the loved one's close family and friends gather to check off another item.



## Celebrations of Life: A Bit of Light in the Darkness

Planning a celebration of life should focus on the joy someone brought, not the sadness of their departure.

If you're planning your own or helping a loved one plan theirs, use a digital legacy service to make wishes and preferences known. From storing a list of invitees to naming a charity you'd like donations to go to, GoodTrust provides all the features you need to prepare a celebration of life.

Plus, you can ensure all of your digital accounts are protected after death, so your loved ones don't have to worry about stolen information or finances.

[Sign up with GoodTrust for free](#) today.



## Let's start by creating a free account.

We help you securely store and manage your digital legacy of websites, social media, documents, Last Will and deliver it all to the right people today or when you pass away.

[Sign up for free](#)



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