



*An estate is like a jigsaw puzzle.
We put all the pieces into place!*

Resources to Address Closing Your Social Media Accounts

Life has changed since the creation of the internet. We are connected in so many ways, but have you thought about what happens to your online identity when you die? Who would have that authority?

A website that shares information on HOW to close an account, and which sites do not allow you to close your account is:

<http://www.accountkiller.com>

But it may not be as easy as you think.

The following information on creating a Social Media Will to allow you to name an online trustee/executor to close your accounts is available at this link:

<http://www.usa.gov/topics/money/personal-finance/wills.shtml>.

"Write a Social Media Will."

"Social media is a part of daily life, so what happens to the online content that you created once you die? If you are active online you should consider creating a statement of how you would like your online identity to be handled, like a social media will. You should appoint someone you trust as an online executor. This person will be responsible for the closure of your email addresses, social media profiles, and blogs after you are deceased. Take these steps to help you write a social media will (download a social media will template in Excel format at <http://www.usa.gov/topics/consumer/social-media-will.xls>).

Review the privacy policies and the terms and conditions of each website where you have a presence. State how you would like your profiles to be handled. You may want to completely cancel your profile or keep it up for friends and family to visit. Some sites allow



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users to create a memorial profile where other users can still see your profile but can't post anything new.

Give the social media executor a document that lists all the websites where you have a profile, along with your usernames and passwords. Stipulate in your will that the online executor should have a copy of your death certificate. The online executor may need this as proof in order for websites to take any actions on your behalf.

Check to see if the social media platforms have account management features to let you proactively manage what happens to your accounts after you die. For example, Google's Inactive Account Manager allows you to manage how you want your online content to be saved or deleted. This feature also lets you give permission for your family or close friends to access the content you saved on Google websites after you die."

Source: <http://www.usa.gov/topics/money/personal-finance/wills.shtml>