

Aftercare Checklist

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A helpful list of things that must be done after the loss of a loved one.

- Obtain certified copies of your loved one's death certificate.
- Social Security Prospect Heights location: 1-866-931-8350
- File all life insurance claims.
- Notify the post office to forward mail, if applicable.
- Select a grave marker and finalize engraving.
- Send thank you notes.
- Pay any outstanding bills (utilities, internet, cable, rent, etc.)
- Disconnect utilities if needed (including cable, internet, phone).
- Contact your loved one's cell phone provider and discontinue services.
- Notify your loved one's financial advisor.
- Close email and website accounts.
- Close or change social media accounts. Some sites will allow you to change the page to a memorial page and set up someone as the page administrator.
- Transfer property titles (house, car, etc.)
- Cancel any memberships (gyms, organizations, fraternities, sororities, etc.) and subscriptions (magazines, newspapers, streaming services, etc.)
- Cancel any insurance policies with your loved one listed as the primary beneficiary, and contact the insurance carrier to make appropriate adjustments.
- Notify the election board in your loved one's primary state of residence.
- File your loved one's final tax return.

Some of these things can be done in advance. Please contact our funeral home if you are interested in making your own prearrangements.

Resources

Government Agencies

- Social Security: (800) 772-1213, www.ssa.gov
- Illinois Secretary of State: Vehicle Records Processing Division, 501 S. 2nd St., Room 424, Springfield, IL 62756-6666, (800) 252-8980, www.cyberdriveillinois.com
- Veteran's Administration: (800) 827-1000, www.va.gov
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service: (800) 269-5170 (Military retiree receiving benefits), www.dfas.mil
- Office of Personnel Management: (888) 767-6738 (Retired former federal civil service employee), www.opm.gov
- Railroad Retirement Board: (312) 751-7139, www.rrb.gov

Credit Reporting Agencies

There are three national credit-reporting agencies that you should notify and instruct them to list all the decedent's accounts as: "Closed. Account Holder Deceased." It is a good idea to request the decedent's credit report and check all credit activity. Send (we suggest certified mail) the items listed on the form along with a photocopy of the death certificate. It is a good idea to retain copies of the documents and follow-up by telephone in a couple of weeks.

- Experian, PO Box 4500, Allen, TX 75013, (888) 397-3742, www.experian.com
- Equifax Information Services LLC, PO Box 740256, Atlanta, GA 30348, (866) 349-5191, www.equifax.com
- TransUnion, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, (800) 916-8800, www.transunion.com