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HOW TO MANAGE A DECEASED LOVED ONE'S FACEBOOK ACCOUNT

Managing a deceased person's Facebook account is just one part of safeguarding their digital presence. Facebook does offer a few options depending on whether you would like to preserve their account as a memorial or have it removed entirely. Here is what you need to know, along with how to protect their digital legacy from misuse.

When Facebook is made aware that someone has passed away, their policy is to memorialize the account. This turns the profile into a digital tribute, serving as a space where friends and family can gather, share memories and view photos and posts. A memorialized account:

- Displays the word "Remembering" next to the person's name.
- Preserves content they posted during their lifetime.
- Prevents anyone from logging into an account.
- Can only be managed by a legacy contact (if one was assigned)

Memorializing an account not only honors the person's memory but also adds a layer of security by locking the account from unauthorized access. Anyone can request a Facebook account be memorialized if they believe the user has passed away, but only verified immediate family or a legacy contact can manage the account afterward.

PROCESS

Request Memorialization:

If Facebook has not already memorialized the account, you can request it yourself. While anyone can submit a memorialization request, Facebook may require proof if you are not a close family member.

- Go to the Memorialization Request Form
- Provide the deceased's full name and date of death.
- Upload proof of death (like an obituary, death certificate or memorial card)
- Submit the form and wait for Facebook to review and process the request.
- If the deceased assigned a legacy contact before they passed, that person will be notified and may be able to manage the memorialized profile.

Request for Account Removal:

If you would prefer to have the account permanently deleted rather than memorialized, Facebook provides a separate process for that, but only for immediate family members or legal representatives.

Visit the Special Request for Deceased Person's Account

Select the option: Please remove this account.

Upload documentation, including a copy of the deceased's death certificate and proof that you are a close family member or have legal authority to act on their behalf.

LEGACY CONTACT

Facebook allows users to assign a legacy contact, someone they trust to manage their memorialized profile. If your loved one set this up before passing, their legacy contact may be able to:

Accept new friend requests.

Pin tribute posts.

Update the profile or cover photo.

Request account deletion.

However, they cannot log into the account, read messages or make posts as the deceased. To assign a legacy contact on your own profile, go to your Facebook settings, then choose "Memorialization Settings." From there, you can select a trusted contact to manage your memorialized account when the time comes.