

# FAMILY REUNION INSTITUTE'S

## STICKY REUNION SITUATION

### SOCIAL MEDIA FOR NOTIFICATIONS?

September 2020

---

#### The Situation:

We've noticed that family members have begun using social media (Facebook and Instagram) more and more to make death notifications, and want to begin communicating about the reunion in the same way. And while one can argue that it's a quick, painless, and less expensive way to get the word out, senior family members who do not use social media are feeling left out, and that this way of communication is neglectful and disrespectful to them specifically. What can we do to bridge this gap?

---

#### The Fix:



**Doug Harris**

Thank you for recognizing the concerns of the elders in your family. Why not print out the Facebook posts? The printed posts can be mailed to the seniors not connected to social media. A family member can be asked to take on this responsibility. Yes, this will take some extra effort to prepare the mailings in addition to the cost of paper, ink, envelopes and stamps. But it's well worth the effort so that all family members can feel included and valued.

Children in the family could occasionally be asked to draw a picture or create a greeting card for the elder that can be sent with the notification. In this way the younger members of the family and the elders can make a connection prior to the reunion!

---