

# McChesney Law Firm Newsletter

## FACEBOOK – WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS WHEN WE DIE?

### Is it Spring Yet?

Winter is slowly on the way out and Spring will hopefully be here before we know it! All of us at McChesney Law Firm hope that you and your family are well! In this newsletter, we wanted to give you some helpful information about social media accounts. Nearly all of us have at least one social media account. However, most of us don't know what happens to those accounts when we die.

### Facebook Accounts

There are two options you can choose from now to decide what happens to your Facebook Account after you die. You can have your account “memorialized” or you can choose to have your account deleted. Both of these options will be explained further.

**Option #1: Memorialize Your Account:** If you choose to memorialize your account, the word “Remembering” is shown next to your name. Friends and family can then share memories of you on your page. Anything you previously posted is visible to the audience it's shared with. Your profile will not appear in public spaces such as in suggestions for People You May Know, ads or birthday reminders. No one can log into a memorialized account. Memorialized accounts that don't have a legacy contact can't be changed.

**What is a Legacy Contact?** A legacy contact is someone you choose to look after your account once it is memorialized. Once your account is memorialized, your legacy contact will have the option to do things like:

- Write a pinned post for your profile (example: to share a final message on your behalf or provide information about a memorial service).
- Update your profile picture and cover photo
- Request the removal of your account

Your legacy contact can't:

- Log into your account
- Remove or change past posts, photos and other things shared on your timeline
- Read your messages
- Remove any of your friends or make new friend requests
- Add a new legacy contact to your account

### **Option #2: Delete Your Account**

You can request to have your account permanently deleted after your death. A loved one will need a copy of your death certificate in order to do this as well as proof that they have the authority to do so (will, etc). This option will completely delete the timeline and all associated content from Facebook for good, so no one can view it. All pictures and posts originating from the profile in question will be removed.

## OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

- Twitter: You need to complete a form to report the death of a user and deactivate the account. Usually you will need to provide the username, the death certificate and proof of your identity and relationship with the deceased.
- LinkedIn: Account can be closed if they have basic personal information, plus a link to the obituary and name of company last worked for.
- Instagram: Account can be memorialized or deactivated similar to facebook.
- Google: Use Google's Inactive Account Manager to specify what you want done with your accounts after you die.

Make a plan now for all of your social media accounts and what you'd like done with them. It will make things easier down the road.

**McChesney Law Firm, P.A.: 904-437-4036**

