

POSTMORTEM

Most Important

1. IMMEDIATE STEPS

- Get a legal pronouncement of death
- Arrange for dependent care (people, pets, other living things)
- Reach out to close contacts (family, friends, employers, landlords)
- Secure any belongings (apartments, cars, personal property)
- Decide what to do with the deceased (see our options guide)

2. WITHIN A FEW DAYS

- Locate a Will or any information on arrangements
- Write an obituary (or ask a friend or relative to help write one)
- Get Death Certificates (key for all legal and financial steps ahead)

3. FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL PLANNING

- Many people will outline their wishes in their Will
- Unless culturally specified, there is no legal rush for a funeral / memorial. You have options (see our guides)
- Look or apply for Life Insurance claims (or any death benefits). Most costs will have to be out of you pocket to start.

4. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

- Consult an estate attorney (needed if person had no Will)
- Begin probate process (if needed) - work with attorney
- Notify and update major accounts first (primary bank, insurance, etc) - begin closing

The probate process can be lengthy and require a great deal of financial information. We have more detailed guides on Step 4