



TOPIC 4 PRACTICAL ASPECTS

Death is an inevitable aspect of life, and dealing with it involves several practical and bureaucratic issues, which family members or other caregivers will need to deal with. This topic will guide you through some of the practical issues you will encounter after the person has passed.

When a person dies, several practical or bureaucratic tasks are required. Dealing with these can be emotionally challenging. Planning for or anticipating such practical and bureaucratic issues, may alleviate some of the emotional and practical burdens of those who survive you.

You may consider taking advice with lawyers, solicitors, or probate specialists to help address these complex issues. However, there are other types of questions, which, although they seem to be simple to solve, can escape us when we find ourselves in such a dark and painful time as the death of a loved one.

Module 4:

After death

Some bureaucratic steps that should be considered when a person dies:

1. Death Certificate
2. Funeral
3. Will and Probate/Legal Matters
4. Legal and Tax Procedures
5. Notification of Institutions
6. Life Insurance
7. Bank Accounts and Financial Assets
8. Social Security and Pensions
9. Digital Closure



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...at the end of life



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Reflections:

1. Obtain the death certificate. This is usually signed by the hospital, doctor, or healthcare professional who treated the person before their death. This certificate will be necessary for many other bureaucratic matters.
2. The organisation of the funeral is the next step. Find out if the deceased has left written guidelines and use this document if it exists. If not choose a funeral service, and decide on cremation or burial, and make arrangements for the ceremony. The funeral service will guide you through this.
3. Find out if there is a will. If so, locate it and follow the instructions contained in it. Find out if it's necessary to submit it to a court (probate) for validation. It may be necessary to file the will with a court (probate) for validation.
4. It may also be necessary to make an inventory of the deceased's assets. It also important to Explore if any legal issues and/or legal proceedings are in progress.
5. You may need to deal with legal procedures related to succession, such as opening a probate or dividing properties. You may also need to resolve inheritance related tax issues.
6. Inform institutions such as banks, insurance companies, credit card companies, and government agencies about the death. This usually involves providing copies of the death certificate.
7. If the deceased has life insurance, beneficiaries should contact the insurance company to begin the claiming process.
8. If the deceased has bank accounts and other financial assets, the heirs or executor of the will must deal with the closure of those bank accounts or the transfer of property of other financial assets. In some cases, heirs may be responsible for certain debts, it is important to have assess/also to deal with the debts and financial obligations of the deceased.
9. Inform Social Security about the death, especially if the deceased is receiving if there are active benefits. The same applies to pensions and or other government benefits.
10. It will also be necessary to Identify any social media accounts, to decide to preserve or close some digital platforms and/or active subscriptions.

How to use the flashcard

This flashcard seeks first and foremost to provide a practical overview of the steps involved, making it easier to start addressing sometimes complex practical and bureaucratic issues that arise after a person's death.

It also aims to raise awareness of the need to plan for post-mortem issues such as funerals, to make the process easier for those left to deal with such matters. This will allow them to focus only on grieving and accepting the loss, but also to ensure that the deceased's wishes are respected and that their assets are distributed according to their intentions.



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