



Legacy

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Handling your loved one's digital Facebook and Instagram profiles after their passing

Losing a loved one is a difficult experience, and in today's digital age, their social media accounts continue to exist even after their passing. Facebook and Instagram, like other platforms, provide options for dealing with a deceased person's accounts.

Understanding these options and navigating the process can help you preserve memories and honour your loved one. This article provides helpful information on closing your loved one's digital Facebook and Instagram profiles.

Ways to handle a digital Facebook and Instagram Legacy:

There are several primary options for handling someone's digital Facebook and Instagram profiles after they pass away:

- a. Memorialise their accounts:** To memorialise a Facebook account, visit Facebook and search for the "request to memorialise form." This option keeps the profile visible, allowing friends and family to interact with it, while clearly indicating that the person has passed away. To memorialise an Instagram account, you need to fill out the "Memorialisation Request" form available on the Instagram Help Centre.
- b. Delete their accounts:** Deleting the accounts removes all information, posts, and photos associated with them. To delete a Facebook account, contact Facebook directly to initiate the process. They will guide you through the necessary steps and may require specific information such as the link to the profile, date of passing, death certificate, and your email address. To delete an Instagram account, you can submit a request through the Instagram Help Centre, providing the required information and documentation.
- c. Archive or download content:** Before taking any action, you may want to consider archiving or downloading the content from the accounts. This includes photos, videos, and any meaningful posts. It allows you to retain a personal copy of the digital memories associated with your loved one. To do this, you will need to log in to the accounts with the appropriate credentials and navigate to the settings or privacy sections to access the options for downloading or archiving content.
- d. Keep their accounts active:** If you choose to keep the accounts active, no immediate action is required. However, it's essential to regularly review privacy settings and manage the accounts to ensure they remain secure and respectful of the person's memory.



Required information to close or change Facebook and Instagram accounts:

To close or modify a deceased person's Facebook and Instagram accounts, you will need the following information:

- Link to their Facebook and Instagram profiles: Provide the URL or link to the person's Facebook and Instagram profiles.
- Date of passing: Specify the date when your loved one passed away.
- Death certificate or obituary: You might be required to provide official documentation, such as a death certificate or obituary, to verify the passing.
- Your email address: Share your email address as a point of contact during the process.

Useful links:

Here are some useful links related to managing a deceased person's Facebook and Instagram accounts:

- Facebook memorialised accounts: Managing a deceased person's account: <https://www.facebook.com/help/150486848354038>
- Request removal of a deceased family member's Facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/help/contact/228813257197480>
- Instagram Help Centre: Memorialisation Request: <https://help.instagram.com/264154560391256>

Handling a loved one's digital Facebook and Instagram profiles after their passing is a personal and emotional process. Choosing to memorialise or delete the accounts is a decision that should be made after considering the wishes of family and friends. Remember to gather the necessary information and reach out to the Facebook and Instagram support teams or seek assistance from a trusted friend if needed. By carefully managing their digital legacy, you can preserve memories and honour your loved one in a meaningful way.

Remember to approach the process with empathy and respect, keeping in mind the sensitivities of those involved. Each platform may have its own specific guidelines and requirements, so it's essential to consult the relevant resources and follow the instructions provided by Facebook and Instagram. By taking these steps, you can navigate the process of handling your loved one's digital legacy on Facebook and Instagram in a thoughtful and considerate manner.