

WHEN A LOVED ONE PASSES AWAY

Each situation is unique. This guide provides generalized steps, and you should speak to a Florida Probate lawyer for specific legal advice. Most importantly, remember to prioritize your emotional well-being during this tough time.



IF THE DEATH HAPPENS AT HOME, CALL 911.

Inform Family and Close Friends:

It's tough but start by letting family and close friends know. It's okay to lean on others for support during this time. Community or religious support can also be beneficial.

Take Care of the Body:

Call a funeral home or cremation service. You will have guidance, based on what the person wanted or what you determine is best.



FIND & SEEK

Locate Essential Documents:

Look for the will and any memorial, remembrance, or funeral plans.

Plan Funeral or Memorial Services:

In organizing a service, keep in mind any specific wishes of the deceased or family traditions. Remember to do what feels right for you and your family.

Secure the Deceased's Property:

Ensure the deceased's residence is secure. Arrange for pets and any dependents.



SORT THINGS OUT

Obtain a Legal Death Certificate:

A death certificate is essential for all subsequent legal and financial steps. You will need multiple copies of both a short and long form death certificate.

Find Important and Financial Papers:

Life insurance policies, bank statements, investments, deeds, and vehicle titles. This may take time, and that is okay.

Let People Know:

Tell their job, Social Security, insurance companies, and banks about what happened.

Get Legal Help:

Consider hiring a Florida-based probate attorney as things get complicated.

Initiate Probate Process if needed:

This means dealing with their property, paying any debts they had, and making sure things go to the right people.



MANAGE FINANCES

Manage Financial Responsibilities:

Keep up with payments for the home, such as mortgages, home or condo association payments and utilities tied to their estate.

Claim Survivor Benefits:

Investigate potential benefits for survivors, including life insurance, Social Security, and veterans' benefits.