



What Happens to Your Social Media Accounts When You Die?

A Florida Digital Estate Planning Guide from Andrea L. Jakob, PA (JakobLegal)

Your Digital Life Matters

We share memories, photos, messages, and milestones online every day. But what happens to your digital accounts when you're no longer here?

A complete estate plan should include your digital life—not just your finances or home. This guide from **Andrea L. Jakob, PA** (also known as **JakobLegal**) explains how to protect your **digital assets** and online presence as part of your Florida estate plan.

Why Social Media Should Be Part of Your Digital Estate Plan

Social media accounts aren't just for sharing updates—they hold real value:

- Family photos
- Private messages
- Business communications
- Online subscriptions
- Sentimental keepsakes

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Without a plan, these **digital estate assets** can be lost—or worse, inaccessible to loved ones. Even seeing birthday reminders for a deceased loved one can bring unexpected grief.

How Major Platforms Handle Social Media Accounts After Death

Facebook (Meta)

- Appoint a Legacy Contact
- Memorialize or delete
- Legacy Contact can update photos, post announcements, and download shared content (if allowed)

Instagram

- Can be memorialized
- No account access after death
- Requires death certificate
- Cannot appoint a manager like Facebook

X (formerly Twitter)

- No memorial option
- Account can be deleted by request
- Requires proof of death and identity

LinkedIn

- Special form to request account removal
- Need the profile link, relationship, and date of death
- Especially important for business owners

Google (Gmail, Drive, YouTube, etc.)

- Inactive Account Manager lets you choose what happens if you're inactive
- Decide who can access your content and when

- Google accounts often require 2-step verification—someone will need access to your phone!
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Florida Law Makes Digital Asset Access Possible

Florida's **Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act** (Title XLII, Chapter 740, Florida Statutes) gives your personal representative, trustee, or power of attorney the right to access your digital property—but **only if you give written authorization in your estate plan**.

At **Andrea L. Jakob, PA**, we ensure your Florida estate plan includes clear, legal permission for loved ones to access your social media, email, cloud storage, and digital devices. We help families avoid costly delays and emotional frustration by protecting their digital legacies now.

What Happens If You Don't Plan Your Digital Afterlife?

Without a **digital legacy plan**, your loved ones may:

- Be locked out of important accounts
- Lose treasured photos or messages
- Face delays and legal barriers
- See ghost accounts pop up in feeds and reminders

Don't leave your **digital estate** to chance. Make sure your wishes are known and enforceable.

3 Steps to Protect Your Digital Legacy

1. Make a Digital Inventory

List your accounts, storage services, domains, and subscriptions. Use a secure place to store usernames and passwords.

2. Use Built-In Tools

Set up Facebook's Legacy Contact and Google's Inactive Account Manager to control what happens.

3. Add Digital Instructions to Your Estate Plan

Clarify:

- Who can manage or close your accounts
- Whether you want accounts deleted or memorialized
- Who should receive access to photos, emails, and documents

These instructions should complement your formal legal documents.

Final Thought

Your **digital life** deserves just as much protection as your home, bank accounts, and heirlooms.

✚ It's one more piece of your legacy—and it matters.

If you're ready to work with a Florida estate planning attorney who understands the importance of **digital asset protection**, schedule a discovery call with **Andrea L. Jakob, PA** today.

Tags: #DigitalEstatePlanning #FloridaEstateAttorney #FiduciaryAccessToDigitalAssets
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