



## Empower Your Digital After Life

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How do you explore mortality? It is difficult to broach the subject, especially with loved ones. There is a positive and healing way to guide this discussion. As Willie Nelson sings, "It's not something you get over, but it's something you get through." The loved ones who are left on the other side of a decedent's passing are often overwhelmed with settling the estate and usually have no idea as to what to do, nor how to do it. To help them get through this fog of tribulation, there is hope. Both in the crisis of the moment and planning beforehand, fiduciaries should empathetically bridge this gap between estate planning and the location, control, curation, and collection for what is called your Digital After Life™.

Death might be inevitable, but how we talk about it and plan for it can be pivoted to accentuate the positive. Afterlife connotes life after death, or the world to come. Your Digital After Life™ is your legacy - your last wishes, your assets, your digital footprint. Family office managers can help create a plan for a meaningful Digital After Life™ as a gift to the next generation. By providing a safe and secure home for your records and accounts of your assets, your affairs are organized at death so your executor has a comprehensive plan for settling your estate, avoiding the costly nightmare for your family of proceeds going to attorneys and taxes.

With forensic precision and innovative automation, family offices and their professional fiduciaries can ease the transition by organizing each member's digital and tangible data and documents. Create a family owner's manual to bring the deliberateness of a family office to your family's organization, education, communication, and decision-making. Include social media accounts and email inboxes, crypto-assets, videos, and photographs, as they are an increasingly important part of people's lives. Users of Google and Apple should designate others to manage their inactive accounts on Google and gain access to photos and cloud storage held by Apple.

Prepare a limited and specific digital asset power of attorney, and select Internet sites that should be contacted to remove your name from their service platforms. Over thirty sites collect personal identification data; these can be accessed with an online search command, and each site has agreed to remove a person's name if requested to do so.

Have you thought about who will read your emails when you no longer can do so? Who will know how to gain access to your cell phone? Where do you want all photos and videos to go when you are no longer in control? Did you know your name may reside in over 200 locations in the cloud?

Emails, videos, photo and contact lists are all digital assets, and we suggest you have a plan and name a digital executor in some or all of your legal documents. In doing so, you will have taken important steps to protecting your assets and identity, finding hidden wealth, and closing down necessary accounts, both financial and social. Empower your Digital After Life™ with empathy and accessibility.