



Memorializing or Deleting a Facebook Account, Step by Step

A Gentle, Step-by-Step Guide Turn an account into a tribute, or remove it — in plain English

————— An Extended Guide · No. 1792 —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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What's Inside

Everything in this guide, with page numbers. Skip to whichever chapter answers your question right now.

1. The Whole Plan on One Page	4
2. What 'Memorializing' Really Means	4
3. What a Memorialized Profile Is Not	5
4. How to Decide Between the Two	5
5. Why an Untended Account Can Cause Harm	6
6. Who Is Allowed to Make Each Request	7
7. What a Legacy Contact Is	7
8. Setting a Legacy Contact, Step by Step	8
9. What a Legacy Contact Can Do	8
10. What a Legacy Contact Cannot Do	9
11. Picking the Right Legacy Contact	9
12. Gathering Proof for a Memorialization Request	10
13. Submitting the Memorialization Request	11
14. Obituary or Death Certificate — Which to Use	11
15. What Changes Once It Is Memorialized	12
16. Who Can See the Old Posts Now	12
17. Caring for a Memorialized Profile	13
18. Pinning a Message to the Top	14
19. Friend Requests and the Profile Photo	14
20. Requesting Deletion — Who Can and What You Need	15
21. Submitting a Deletion Request	15

22. The Emotional Side of Deciding	16
23. Reporting a Hacked Account	17
24. Reporting a Fake or Duplicate Profile	17
25. What Happens to Messenger and Messages	18
26. Saving Photos Before Anything Changes	19
27. Privacy Settings Worth a Look	19
28. Scams That Target the Grieving	20
29. Protecting Your Own Account Today	20
30. Doing This Together as a Couple	21
31. Common Worries, Answered — Part One	22
32. Common Worries, Answered — Part Two	22
33. When You Cannot Easily Prove the Relationship	23
34. What to Expect While You Wait	23
35. If You Only Do Three Things	24
36. Finish the Job Soon	24
Everyday Cheat Sheet	25
A Picture to Follow Along	26
A Second Look	27
A Note From Bill	27
Your Visit — and My Promise	28

THE 60-SECOND VERSION

1. The Whole Plan on One Page

If you read only one page, read this. Here is the whole idea as a short checklist.

When someone passes away, their Facebook account does not simply disappear.

Someone has to tell Facebook. You have two choices. You can memorialize the account, which turns it into a gentle tribute page with the word 'Remembering' above the name. Or you can ask Facebook to delete it entirely. You cannot do both, so it helps to decide calmly before you start.

- 1 Decide together as a family: memorialize the account as a tribute, or delete it for good.
- 2 Gather a little proof — the person's full name, their date of passing, and a link to an obituary or a photo of the death certificate.
- 3 To memorialize, fill out Facebook's memorialization request form online.
- 4 To delete, an immediate family member or legal representative files a deletion request with more proof.
- 5 If the account was hacked or a fake copy appears, report that separately.
- 6 Take your time. There is no deadline, and Facebook reviews every request by hand.

GOOD TO KNOW

Memorializing is reversible in spirit — a memorialized account can still be deleted later if the family changes its mind. Deleting is final. When unsure, memorializing first is the gentler, safer choice.

The rest of this guide walks through each path slowly, in plain words, with exactly what you will see on the screen. There is no rush, and no wrong pace.

WHAT IT IS

2. What 'Memorializing' Really Means

Memorializing is Facebook's word for turning a living person's account into a remembrance. Once it is done, the word 'Remembering' appears above the person's name. The profile stays online, but it changes character. It is no longer an account anyone logs into. It becomes a quiet place where friends and family can visit, look back at photos, and leave messages.

Think of it like a guest book that stays open at a graveside. The posts the person made over the years remain. Friends can still share memories on the timeline, if the privacy settings allowed that. But the account is frozen in an important way: no one can sign in to it,

change it wholesale, or use it as if they were the person who passed.

- The profile stays visible, with 'Remembering' shown above the name.
- Existing photos, posts, and videos remain just as they were.
- Friends can still post tributes, depending on the old privacy settings.
- No one can log in to the account, ever again.

GOOD TO KNOW

Memorializing does not require a password. You never need to know how to log in. You simply ask Facebook to do it, and Facebook makes the change on its end.

WHAT IT IS NOT

3. What a Memorialized Profile Is Not

It helps to be clear about the limits, so no one expects something the account cannot do. A memorialized profile is a tribute, not a doorway into the person's digital life. It will not give you their messages, their photos stored privately, or the ability to act as them.

- It is not a login. No one gains access to read the person's private messages.
- It is not a way to download everything the person ever saved.
- It is not editable the way a live account is — most things are frozen in place.
- It does not appear in friend suggestions, and it stops prompting birthday reminders.

This can be a relief. Many families worry that a loved one's account will keep popping up — suggesting them as a friend, or reminding everyone of a birthday that now brings tears. Memorializing quietly stops those painful little surprises while keeping the memories safe.

TIP

If seeing the account in your feed is hard, you can simply unfollow it while leaving it memorialized. The tribute stays for others; it just stops appearing in your own timeline.

MEMORIALIZE OR DELETE

4. How to Decide Between the Two

There is no right answer here, only the right answer for your family. Some families find comfort in a memorialized page they can visit on anniversaries. Others find it painful and would rather the account be gone. Both choices are valid. It often helps to talk it through with the people closest to the person before you do anything.

- Choose memorialize if: family wants a place to gather, share photos, and leave messages.
- Choose memorialize if: you are not sure yet — it can always be deleted later.
- Choose delete if: the person clearly wished for no online presence after death.
- Choose delete if: keeping the page visible causes more grief than comfort.

WATCH OUT

Deletion is permanent. Once an account is deleted, the photos, posts, and messages on it are gone and cannot be recovered. If there is any chance you will want those memories, save them first — a later chapter shows how.

If the family is divided, memorializing is the safer first step. It pauses everything gently, gives you time, and leaves the door open to delete later if that is what everyone decides.

WHY IT MATTERS

5. Why an Untended Account Can Cause Harm

Leaving an account completely alone is not really neutral. An open, un-memorialized account can keep behaving as if the person were still here. It may suggest them as a friend to others, send birthday reminders, and — most worrying — it remains a target for thieves who read obituaries and try to break into accounts.

Scammers watch death notices closely. A hacked account of someone who has passed can be used to message their grieving friends, asking for money or spreading scams in the person's name. Memorializing locks the account so no one can log in and misuse it, which is one of its quiet but real protections.

WATCH OUT

If friends start receiving odd messages from the person's account after they have passed — asking for money, gift cards, or clicking a link — that is a sign the account was hacked. Report it to Facebook right away. A later chapter explains how.

- An open account can keep prompting painful birthday and anniversary reminders.
- It can be hacked and used to target the person's friends.
- Memorializing or deleting puts a firm stop to both risks.

WHO CAN DO WHAT

6. Who Is Allowed to Make Each Request

Facebook treats these requests differently depending on who you are and what you are asking. It is worth knowing this up front so you are not surprised by what the form asks of you. In short, almost anyone can request a memorialization, but deletion is reserved for close family or a legal representative.

- Memorialization: can be requested by a friend or family member, with basic proof.
- A legacy contact: a caretaker the person chose in advance, who can tend the page.
- Deletion: immediate family or a legal representative only, with stronger proof.
- Reporting a hacked or fake account: anyone who notices it can report it.

If you are a close friend rather than family, you can still set the memorialization in motion. You simply may not be able to request deletion or manage the page afterward. That role falls to the immediate family or to a legacy contact the person named while they were alive.

GOOD TO KNOW

A legacy contact and an executor are not the same thing. A legacy contact is chosen inside Facebook itself. An executor is named in a will. Sometimes they are the same person, which keeps everything simpler.

THE LEGACY CONTACT

7. What a Legacy Contact Is

A legacy contact is the single most helpful thing a person can set up on Facebook while they are still here. It is someone they choose in advance to look after their account if it is ever memorialized. Think of it as naming a caretaker for the tribute page — someone trusted to tend it gently.

The person sets this up themselves, in their own Facebook settings, long before it is needed. They pick a trusted friend or family member. Then, if the account is ever memorialized, that chosen person gains a limited set of caretaking abilities — not full control, but enough to keep the page dignified.

- It is chosen in advance by the account holder, in their own settings.
- It only becomes active once the account is memorialized.
- It gives limited caretaking powers, not a full login.
- Up to one legacy contact can be named per account.

TIP

If you are reading this for your own planning, setting a legacy contact now is a kindness to your family. A later chapter walks you through exactly how to do it on your own account.

SET ONE IN ADVANCE

8. Setting a Legacy Contact, Step by Step

If you want to name a legacy contact for your own account, it takes just a few minutes. You do this in Facebook's settings, which you reach the same way whether you use a computer or the phone app, though the menus look slightly different on each. Here is the general path.

- 1 Open Facebook and go to Settings. On the phone app, tap the menu and look for Settings & privacy.
- 2 Look for the Accounts Center, or search the settings for 'Memorialization'.
- 3 Find the Memorialization Settings or Legacy Contact option.
- 4 Choose a trusted friend or family member and type their name.
- 5 Facebook offers to send them a note letting them know you chose them.
- 6 Save your choice. You can change it any time.

GOOD TO KNOW

Facebook's menus move around over time. If you cannot find 'Legacy Contact' where you expect, use the search box inside Settings and type 'memorialization' — that reliably finds it.

That is the whole task. You are not giving anyone access today. You are simply naming who may tend your page if the day ever comes. It costs nothing and spares your family a great deal of uncertainty.

WHAT THEY CAN DO

9. What a Legacy Contact Can Do

Once an account is memorialized, the legacy contact gains a small, carefully chosen set of abilities. These are meant for keeping the tribute page respectful and welcoming, nothing more. It helps to know exactly what they are, so expectations stay realistic.

- Pin a tribute post to the top of the profile — a farewell message or notice of a service.
- Respond to new friend requests from people who want to connect with the memorialized profile.

- Update the profile photo and the cover photo.
 - If the person allowed it in advance, request a download of what the person shared.
- That last ability — downloading what the person posted — is only available if the account holder specifically turned it on when they named their legacy contact. It covers posts, photos, and profile information the person shared, not private messages.

GOOD TO KNOW

Pinning a tribute post is often the first thing a legacy contact does. A gentle message such as details of a memorial service, pinned to the top, helps friends know where to gather.

WHAT THEY CANNOT DO

10. What a Legacy Contact Cannot Do

It is just as important to know the limits. A legacy contact is a caretaker, not an owner. Facebook deliberately keeps their powers narrow, to protect the privacy of the person who has passed. This often reassures families worried that private things might be exposed.

- They cannot log in to the account as the person.
- They cannot read the person's private messages. Those stay private.
- They cannot remove or edit existing posts and photos the person made.
- They cannot remove friends or see anything that was private to the account holder.

So a legacy contact can greet new visitors, pin a notice, and freshen the photo at the top — but the heart of the account, the person's own words and private conversations, remains sealed and untouched. The memories are preserved exactly as the person left them.

WATCH OUT

If a family member needs the person's private messages for a legal or estate matter, a legacy contact cannot provide them. That is a separate, much harder process, and usually requires a court order. Speak with the estate's attorney.

CHOOSING A CARETAKER

11. Picking the Right Legacy Contact

If you are naming a legacy contact for yourself, give a moment's thought to who. The best choice is someone steady, trustworthy, and likely to outlive you — the same qualities you would want in anyone handling your affairs. It does not need to be the most tech-savvy person; it needs to be the most reliable one.

- Someone you trust to represent you gently and respectfully online.
- Someone calm enough to handle messages from grieving friends with care.
- Ideally the same person who is your executor, to keep the whole plan simple.
- Someone comfortable enough with Facebook to pin a post or answer a request.

You can change your legacy contact at any time, so you are not locked in. And you can let them know you have chosen them, which spares any surprise later. Many people find this a comforting conversation rather than a sad one.

TIP

Keeping your legacy contact, your Apple Legacy Contact, and your executor all the same person makes the whole plan far easier for your family to follow later. One name, clearly chosen.

MEMORIALIZE: WHAT YOU NEED

12. Gathering Proof for a Memorialization Request

To ask Facebook to memorialize an account, you do not need to be family, and you do not need the password. You do need a little proof that the person has truly passed away, so that no one can memorialize a living person's account out of malice. Gather these few things before you start the form.

- The person's full name, exactly as it appears on their Facebook profile.
- A link to their Facebook profile, if you can find it.
- The date they passed away.
- Proof of passing: a link to an online obituary, or a photo or scan of the death certificate.

An online obituary is often the easiest proof to supply, since funeral homes usually post one. If you do not have an obituary link, a clear photo of the death certificate works. Facebook reviews these privately and does not publish them.

GOOD TO KNOW

You do not need every item to be perfect. Facebook's reviewers are used to incomplete information and will contact you if they need more. Submit what you reasonably have.

MEMORIALIZE: STEP BY STEP

13. Submitting the Memorialization Request

The request is a short online form, filled out on any device with a web browser. You do not have to be logged in as the person — in fact you cannot be. You fill it out as yourself, on behalf of someone who has passed. Here is what the process looks like.

- 1 Open Facebook's Help Center and search for 'memorialization request', or follow the memorialized-account link in Facebook's help pages.
- 2 Fill in the person's full name and, if you have it, a link to their profile.
- 3 Enter the date they passed away.
- 4 Attach your proof — the obituary link, or a photo of the death certificate.
- 5 Submit the form.
- 6 Watch your own email for any follow-up questions from Facebook's review team.

WATCH OUT

Fill the form out carefully and honestly. Falsely memorializing a living person's account is taken seriously by Facebook and can cause real harm. These tools are only for someone who has genuinely passed away.

Once you submit, your part is done. Facebook reviews the request by hand, which can take some days. When it is approved, the word 'Remembering' quietly appears above the person's name.

PROOF OF PASSING

14. Obituary or Death Certificate — Which to Use

People often worry about which proof to send. Both an obituary and a death certificate are accepted, and either is usually enough for a memorialization. Here is how to think about the choice, and how to protect privacy while you do it.

- An online obituary link: easiest to supply, and often all that is needed to memorialize.
- A death certificate photo: use this if there is no online obituary, or if Facebook asks for more.
- For a deletion request, Facebook typically wants the stronger proof — the death certificate and proof you are family.
- Send only what is asked. Do not attach extra personal documents.

WATCH OUT

A full obituary can hand identity thieves the mother's maiden name, full birth date, and home address. When you write one, keep those details out. A short, dignified notice protects the family while still serving as proof.

If you are sending a death certificate photo, make sure it is clear and readable, but do not post it anywhere public. Facebook's form sends it privately to their review team, which is the safe way to share it.

AFTER MEMORIALIZING

15. What Changes Once It Is Memorialized

Once Facebook approves the request, several gentle changes happen automatically. The account does not vanish, but it settles into a quieter form. Knowing these changes in advance helps the whole family understand what to expect when they next visit the page.

- The word 'Remembering' appears above the person's name.
- The account no longer appears in friend suggestions to other people.
- Facebook stops sending birthday reminders about the person.
- No one can log in, even if they somehow knew the password.

For many families, the end of those automatic birthday reminders is a quiet relief. A notification wishing a departed loved one a happy birthday can catch a grieving family off guard. Memorializing turns that off without erasing the person's memory.

GOOD TO KNOW

The photos and posts the person shared stay exactly as they were. Memorializing preserves them — it does not delete anything. Friends can still look back through the years whenever they wish.

OLD POSTS & PRIVACY

16. Who Can See the Old Posts Now

A common question is whether memorializing suddenly makes everything public. It does not. The privacy settings the person chose while they were alive carry over. A post that was shared only with friends stays visible only to friends. A public post stays public.

This is important for peace of mind. Memorializing does not strip away the privacy the person set. It freezes the account roughly as it was, visibility and all. So a private photo

album the person shared with a small circle remains limited to that circle.

GOOD TO KNOW

If an account was mostly private to begin with, it will stay mostly private after memorializing. The tribute others can leave will follow those same settings, so the page stays as open or as closed as the person kept it.

- Friends-only posts stay visible to friends only.
- Public posts stay public.
- The person's privacy choices are preserved, not reset.
- A legacy contact cannot widen or narrow those settings for existing posts.

TENDING THE PAGE

17. Caring for a Memorialized Profile

If you are the legacy contact, you may want to tend the page in the first days after memorialization, when friends are visiting most. A few small, gentle touches can turn the profile into a welcoming place to grieve and remember together. None of this is required; do only what feels right.

- 1 Pin a tribute post at the top — perhaps details of a service, or a few words of thanks.
- 2 Update the profile or cover photo if a particular image feels fitting.
- 3 Watch for and accept friend requests from people who want to leave a memory.
- 4 Let the page be. You do not need to reply to every message; your presence is enough.

TIP

Resist any urge to tidy or edit the person's old posts — a legacy contact cannot do that anyway. The page is most meaningful when it stays in the person's own voice, just as they left it.

Tending a memorial page can itself be a small act of grieving. Go gently, and only when you feel up to it. There is no schedule and no obligation.

PIN A TRIBUTE

18. Pinning a Message to the Top

Pinning a tribute post is one of the kindest things a legacy contact can do, and it is simple. A pinned post stays at the very top of the profile, so it is the first thing visitors see. It is the natural place to share news of a service, a few words of farewell, or a link to an online memorial.

- 1 As the legacy contact, open the memorialized profile.
- 2 Write a short tribute post — kind, clear, and not too long.
- 3 Post it, then use the post's menu to choose 'Pin to top' or the pin option.
- 4 Check that it now sits at the top of the profile for all visitors.

GOOD TO KNOW

A pinned post can be changed later. You might pin the service details first, then replace them afterward with a simple thank-you to everyone who came or wrote. The page can evolve as the family heals.

Keep the message plain and warm. Friends arriving at the page are often looking for exactly this kind of signpost — what happened, and where to gather. A few honest sentences serve better than a long speech.

FRIENDS & PHOTOS

19. Friend Requests and the Profile Photo

Two other small caretaking tasks fall to the legacy contact: responding to new friend requests, and updating the profile and cover photos. Both are gentle ways to keep the page welcoming without altering anything the person themselves created.

- New friend requests: people sometimes wish to connect to a memorial page to leave a memory. You may accept these if it feels right.
- Profile photo: you can change it to an image the family finds especially fitting.
- Cover photo: likewise, you can update the banner image at the top.
- You cannot unfriend anyone the person was already connected to.

WATCH OUT

If you are unsure whether to accept a friend request from someone you do not recognize, it is fine to leave it. There is no obligation to accept, and when in doubt, leaving the request pending is perfectly reasonable.

These touches are entirely optional. Some families prefer to leave the photo exactly as the person had it, which is a lovely choice too. The page is theirs to tend however brings the most comfort.

DELETE: WHO & WHAT

20. Requesting Deletion — Who Can and What You Need

Deletion is the other path, and Facebook guards it more carefully because it is permanent. Only an immediate family member or a legal representative of the estate can request that an account be deleted. The form asks for stronger proof than a memorialization does.

- Who: immediate family — a spouse, parent, child, sibling — or a legal representative.
- Proof of passing: typically the death certificate.
- Proof of relationship or authority: a birth certificate, or documents showing you represent the estate.
- The person's full name and, if possible, a link to their profile.

Because deletion erases everything, Facebook wants to be sure the request comes from someone with the right to make it. Gather your documents before you begin, so you can attach them in one sitting rather than stopping partway.

WATCH OUT

Once deletion is complete, the photos, posts, and messages on the account are gone for good. If there is any family treasure on that account — photos, especially — save it first. The next chapters show how.

DELETE: STEP BY STEP

21. Submitting a Deletion Request

The deletion request is, like memorialization, an online form you fill out as yourself on behalf of the person who has passed. You do not log in as them. Have your documents ready as clear photos or scans before you start.

- 1 In Facebook's Help Center, search for a 'special request for a deceased person's account' or the deletion request form.
- 2 Choose the option to delete, rather than memorialize, the account.
- 3 Enter the person's full name and profile link.
- 4 Attach the death certificate and your proof of relationship or legal authority.
- 5 Submit the form, then watch your email for Facebook's review questions.

6 Be patient — deletion requests are reviewed carefully and can take time.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you are not immediate family but you are handling the estate, you will need documents showing that authority. The estate's attorney can tell you exactly which papers serve as proof in your situation.

After you submit, the matter is in Facebook's hands. They may approve it, or write back asking for more. There is nothing more for you to do but wait and answer any follow-up kindly.

A HARD CHOICE

22. The Emotional Side of Deciding

Behind these forms is a tender decision, and it is worth naming that. Choosing whether to keep or erase a loved one's online presence stirs real feelings. Some family members may want the page kept as a place to visit; others may find it unbearable to see. Both reactions are natural and neither is wrong.

It usually helps to decide together, without rushing. There is no deadline from Facebook. The account will sit quietly while you talk it over. If you cannot agree, memorializing first honors both wishes for a time: the page stays for those who want it, and it can still be deleted later if the family comes to that decision.

GOOD TO KNOW

Grief changes over time. A page that feels too painful in the first weeks may become a cherished place to visit a year on. That is another reason memorializing first, rather than deleting, is often the gentler path.

- There is no time limit — decide at your own pace.
- Memorializing honors both those who want the page and those who do not have to look.
- Deletion is final, so make it a settled family decision, not a hasty one.

HACKED ACCOUNTS

23. Reporting a Hacked Account

Sometimes, in the painful days after a passing, a loved one's account starts behaving strangely — messaging friends, posting links, asking for money. That is the mark of a hacked account, and thieves do target the in recent years departed. Reporting it quickly protects the person's friends and the family's peace.

- 1 If you see suspicious messages or posts from the account, do not click any links in them.
- 2 Warn close friends that the account appears compromised and to ignore any money requests.
- 3 In Facebook's Help Center, search for how to report a compromised or hacked account.
- 4 Report it, explaining that the account holder has passed away and the account appears hacked.
- 5 Then proceed to memorialize the account, which locks it so no one can log in again.

WATCH OUT

A hacked account of someone who has passed is a favorite tool of scammers, because grieving friends are more likely to respond to a plea for help. Warn the circle, and never send money in response to such a message.

Memorializing is the lasting fix, because a memorialized account cannot be logged into. Once it is memorialized, the hacker loses their foothold for good.

FAKE & DUPLICATE

24. Reporting a Fake or Duplicate Profile

A different trouble is the fake or duplicate profile. Scammers sometimes copy a deceased person's name and photos to create a brand-new, imposter account — then message that person's friends pretending to be them, often claiming to need help or money. This is impersonation, and Facebook removes such accounts when they are reported.

- 1 Go to the fake profile (not the real, memorialized one).
- 2 Open the profile's menu — the three dots — and choose the report or 'Find support' option.
- 3 Choose that the profile is pretending to be someone, and that the person has passed away.
- 4 Follow the prompts and submit the report.
- 5 Tell the person's friends about the imposter so they do not engage with it.

GOOD TO KNOW

A memorialized account and a fake duplicate are easy to tell apart. The real memorialized one shows 'Remembering' above the name. A fresh imposter account will not, and it usually has very few posts and friends.

Reporting imposters is one of the kindest protections you can offer the person's friends. It shuts down a scam before it can take advantage of people who are grieving and more trusting than usual.

MESSENGER

25. What Happens to Messenger and Messages

Messenger is Facebook's messaging side, and families often wonder what becomes of those private conversations. The honest answer brings both comfort and limits. Private messages stay private. No one — not a legacy contact, not even close family through the normal tools — can read the person's Messenger conversations.

The messages you yourself exchanged with the person, though, remain in your own Messenger. You can still scroll back through your own conversations with them, which many people find a quiet comfort. Those threads live in your account, not only in theirs, so memorializing or even deleting their account does not erase your side of the chat.

GOOD TO KNOW

Your own messages with the person stay in your Messenger, to revisit whenever you wish. If those exchanges are precious, you can take a screenshot of any you especially want to keep safe.

- The person's private messages cannot be read by family through normal tools.
- Your own conversations with them remain in your Messenger.
- Screenshots let you keep particular messages that matter to you.
- Getting the person's own message contents would require a court order — ask the estate's attorney.

SAVE THE MEMORIES

26. Saving Photos Before Anything Changes

Before you delete an account — and even if you only plan to memorialize — it is wise to save the photos and memories that matter to the family. Once an account is deleted, its photos are gone for good. There is no undo. A little effort now can preserve a lifetime of pictures.

- If a legacy contact was set up with the download option enabled, they can request a copy of what the person shared.
- Otherwise, you can at least save the photos you can see, by viewing each and saving it.
- Save any shared albums the person made public or shared with you.
- Keep two copies — one on a computer or drive, one in a safe cloud spot.

WATCH OUT

Only the account holder, or a legacy contact with the download option turned on in advance, can get the full 'download your information' archive. Family cannot pull it after the fact without that setup. So save what you can see while the account is still there.

The most common heartbreak families describe is not a lost password — it is lost photos. Spending an afternoon saving the pictures you can reach is almost always worth it, whichever path you choose for the account.

PRIVACY AFTERWARD

27. Privacy Settings Worth a Look

Whether you memorialize or simply pause, it is worth thinking about privacy. A memorialized page keeps the person's old settings, but a legacy contact and the family can still make thoughtful choices about how open the tribute should be, within the limits Facebook allows.

- Consider whether the page should be a quiet, friends-only space or a more public tribute.
- Be mindful of what strangers can see if the account was largely public.
- Remember that a legacy contact cannot change the privacy of existing posts.
- If openness worries you, deletion is the only way to fully remove the public presence.

TIP

If the family wants a tribute but worries about strangers, a small, private memorial on a dedicated memorial website may suit better than a public Facebook page. The two can happily exist side by side.

There is no single right level of privacy. Talk about what would feel respectful to the person and comfortable for the family, and let that guide the choice between a quiet page and a more open one.

STAY SAFE

28. Scams That Target the Grieving

Grief, sadly, draws predators. Beyond hacked accounts, scammers use obituaries and social media to find and target the in recent years bereaved. Knowing their tricks in advance is the best defense. None of these are your fault if they happen, but a little awareness stops most of them cold.

- Obituary scams: callers claim the deceased owed a debt and demand quick payment. Hang up.
- Fake delivery: someone arrives with a 'package the person ordered' and wants a fee. Decline.
- Grief and romance approaches: strangers befriend the newly widowed online, often claiming their own loss.
- Account takeovers: a hacked account messages friends asking for money or gift cards.

WATCH OUT

Never pay anyone by gift card, wire transfer, or an instant-payment app in response to an unsolicited demand. No legitimate business collects a real debt that way. That request alone marks it as a scam.

When in doubt, slow down and verify independently. Hang up and call the company back on a number you look up yourself. A scammer's whole game is urgency; taking your time is your protection.

SET YOURS NOW

29. Protecting Your Own Account Today

If reading this has you thinking about your own account, that is a good instinct. The single kindest thing you can do is set a legacy contact now and tell that person about it. It takes a few minutes and spares your family uncertainty on one of the hardest days of their lives.

- 1 Open your Facebook settings and find Memorialization Settings or Legacy Contact.
- 2 Choose a trusted person and name them.

- 3 Decide whether to allow them to download a copy of what you share, and turn that on if you wish.
- 4 Let them know you have chosen them, so it is not a surprise later.
- 5 Note your choice alongside your other important papers.

GOOD TO KNOW

You stay in full control. Naming a legacy contact changes nothing while you are here and well. It only ever matters later, and only if your account is memorialized. You can change your choice any time.

Think of it as leaving a spare key with a trusted neighbor. You are not handing over your home today; you are simply making sure the right person can help when the time comes.

FOR COUPLES

30. Doing This Together as a Couple

For married couples and longtime partners, it is easy to assume you would know how to handle each other's accounts. In practice, one person often manages the technology and the other has never touched the settings. Setting legacy contacts for each other closes that gap, and it is far easier done together.

- Each partner names the other as their Facebook legacy contact.
- Also agree on a backup — a grown child or sibling — in case you are gone at the same time.
- Talk through whether each of you would want your page memorialized or deleted.
- Write those wishes down with your other important papers.

GOOD TO KNOW

Having the conversation about what you each would want — a tribute page, or a clean goodbye — is itself a gift. It spares the surviving partner from guessing at a wish they were never told.

It can feel tender to plan this side by side. But couples often say it brought them a quiet peace, knowing each had made the hardest day a little easier for the other.

COMMON WORRIES

31. Common Worries, Answered — Part One

People tend to circle back to the same handful of questions. Here are plain answers to the ones that come up most often about memorializing a Facebook account.

- Do I need the password to memorialize? No. You never need it. You simply ask Facebook.
- Will memorializing make private posts public? No. The person's privacy settings carry over.
- Can I undo a memorialization? The family can still request deletion later, but it stays memorialized until then.
- Can a friend, not family, memorialize the account? Yes — with basic proof of passing.

GOOD TO KNOW

There is no fee to memorialize or delete a Facebook account. Anyone who claims you must pay Facebook to do this is attempting a scam. These requests are always free.

If your particular worry is not here, it is very likely a simple answer too. The next page covers a few more of the questions families ask.

COMMON WORRIES

32. Common Worries, Answered — Part Two

Here are a few more of the questions that come up, with plain answers. If something still troubles you after reading these, that is exactly the kind of thing worth a phone call to talk through.

- Can I read their private messages? No. Messenger conversations stay private, even from a legacy contact.
- What if two family members both file a request? Facebook reviews them together; honest requests sort themselves out.
- What if the obituary lists sensitive details? You can ask the funeral home to shorten it to protect against identity theft.
- How long does Facebook take? It varies — some days for memorialization, often longer for deletion.

WATCH OUT

If you are stuck partway through a form, or unsure which proof to attach, you do not have to figure it out alone at a hard time. A patient helper can sit with you and walk through it.

No question here is silly. These tools were built for a painful moment, and it is completely normal to feel unsure. Ask, and then take it one small step at a time.

IF PROOF IS HARD

33. When You Cannot Easily Prove the Relationship

Sometimes the paperwork is the hurdle. Perhaps there is no online obituary yet, or you are a close family member but the documents proving your relationship are hard to lay hands on quickly. Do not give up — there are gentle ways forward.

- For memorialization, an obituary link is often enough; you may not need the certificate at all.
- If you lack an obituary, the funeral home can usually provide a short notice you can link to.
- For deletion, gather the death certificate and whatever relationship document you have; Facebook will ask if it needs more.
- If you are the estate's representative, your attorney can confirm which papers prove your authority.

GOOD TO KNOW

Facebook's reviewers handle these requests with care and are used to incomplete information. If something is missing, they typically email you to ask, rather than simply refusing. Answer kindly and supply what you can.

If the deletion path feels blocked, remember that memorialization is almost always possible with lighter proof. You can memorialize now to settle the account gently, and pursue deletion later if the family still wishes it.

PATIENCE

34. What to Expect While You Wait

After you submit a request, there is a waiting period while Facebook reviews it by hand. This is not a machine stamping an approval; a person looks at each one. That care is reassuring, but it does mean the answer is not instant. Knowing this spares you the worry that something went wrong.

- Memorialization requests are usually quicker than deletion requests.
- Deletion takes longer, because the proof is checked more carefully.
- Facebook may email you with follow-up questions — watch your inbox and spam folder.

- If you hear nothing for a long stretch, you can gently resubmit or follow up through the Help Center.

TIP

Use the same email address throughout, and check its spam folder now and then. Facebook's reply can land there, and a missed message is the most common reason a request seems to stall.

There is nothing more you need to do while you wait but answer any questions kindly. The account sits safely in the meantime. Let the process take its course; it will get there.

A SIMPLE START

35. If You Only Do Three Things

Perhaps all of this feels like a lot at a heavy time. That is understandable. If you do nothing else, these three small steps handle the most important part and can be done in an afternoon.

- 1 Decide, with the family, whether to memorialize or delete — and when unsure, choose memorialize.
- 2 Gather one piece of proof: an obituary link or a photo of the death certificate.
- 3 Fill out Facebook's one short request form, then let the review run its course.

That is a complete, working request. Everything else in this guide — tending the page, saving photos, reporting imposters — makes things better, but those three steps are the heart of it. Start there, and the rest can follow at your own pace.

TIP

Done gently is better than done perfectly. A memorialized page you settle today spares the family the ache of birthday reminders and the risk of a hacked account tomorrow. Begin small.

FINISH THE JOB

36. Finish the Job Soon

You now know both paths for a Facebook account — the gentle tribute of memorializing, and the clean goodbye of deleting. The only thing left is to choose, gather a little proof, and fill one short form. If you are planning ahead for yourself, naming a legacy contact takes just minutes. Pick a quiet moment and do that one small thing.

If any step gives you pause — if you cannot find the setting, or you are unsure which proof to send, or the whole task feels heavy at present — that is exactly the kind of thing I help neighbors with. There is no such thing as a silly question here, and no judgment about where you are starting from.

GOOD TO KNOW

You do not have to remember all of it. You just have to remember you can call. Friendly, in-home help, and I come to you — (330) 200-8042.

Settling or protecting an account is a thoughtful thing to do, for yourself and for the people you love. Take the time it needs, do it gently, and then let it rest, knowing it is handled.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy. It points you straight to what to do for each task. I want to... Do this
Decide the path Memorialize as a tribute, or delete for good — when unsure, memorialize
Memorialize an account Fill Facebook's request form with the name, date, and an obituary
or certificate Delete an account Immediate family or a legal rep files a request with a death
certificate and proof Set a legacy contact In your own settings: Memorialization Settings,
name one trusted person Know their limits A legacy contact can pin a post and update
photos — not read messages or log in Save the photos first Deletion is permanent — save
pictures you can see before you delete Report trouble Hacked or fake account? Report it,
then memorialize to lock it Avoid a scam No fee to memorialize or delete; never pay a
surprise 'debt' demand Get help Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Two Paths for a Facebook Account

You can ask Facebook to memorialize the account or to delete it — never both.

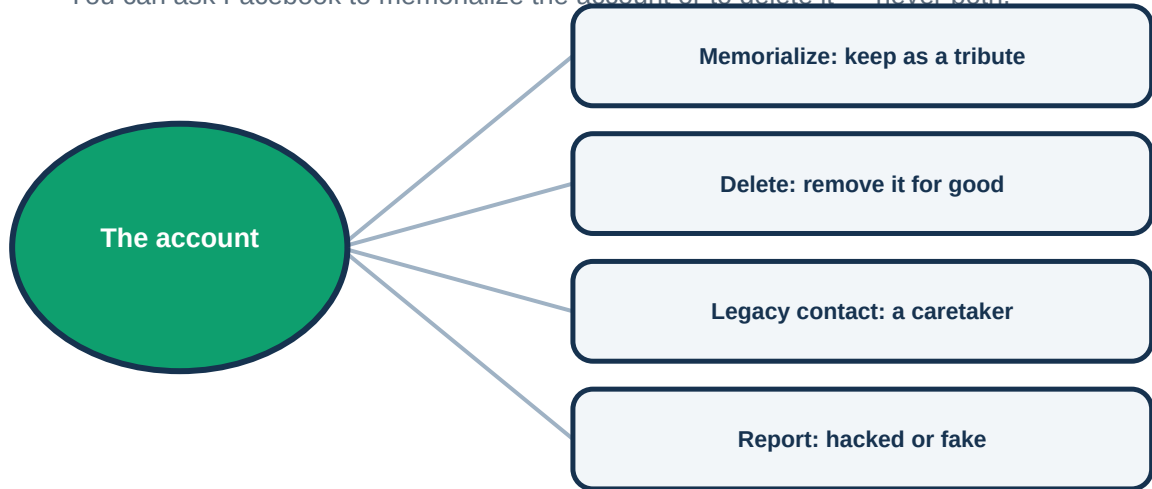


Illustration — a schematic. Set-up screens differ; each takes only a few minutes.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

A Memorialization Request, Step by Step

Gather a little proof, fill one form, then wait for Facebook's review.

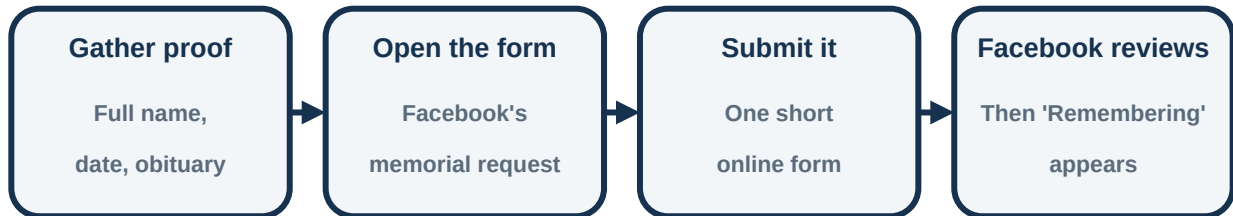


Illustration — a schematic. The order is a suggestion; do one box at a time.

A schematic of the plan — company steps vary; the order does not have to.

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

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