

what now?

**After the death of a loved one –
a survivor's guide.**



CREATED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CHICAGO JEWISH FUNERALS®

**For every
family,
there comes
a time** when they

endure a loss. Arrangements must
be made. Emotions run high.

Decisions can feel overwhelming.

During this difficult time, we are
there for you every step of the way.



“I know and understand the death of a loved one is a difficult time.

One has to navigate the overwhelming emotions of grief, while making important decisions that go beyond the funeral arrangements.

This brochure is intended to provide family members with an overview of the many considerations that must be addressed.

I hope this brochure will make the days ahead a bit less stressful and guide you through this difficult period of mourning.

And that’s the way it should be.”

***–David I. Jacobson
Founder
Chicago Jewish Funerals***

Estate Checklist

This information is not intended to replace the advice from an attorney or licensed estate planner.

Handling the Estate

After you have completed the funeral arrangements for your loved one, you will eventually address the financial matters associated with the estate: all of the deceased's assets (real and personal property) and the estate's liabilities (the money the estate is obliged to pay).

Getting started:

The Executor/Administrator of the estate may forward the deceased's mail in person at a U.S Post Office. Please visit usps.com/manage/mail-for-deceased.htm for required documentation and detailed information. You may also register a deceased individual at dmachoice.org to discontinue some or all direct mail (catalogs, advertisements) to the residence.

Gather the necessary documents of the deceased:

- Social Security number
- Will and trust declarations
- Death certificate
- Marriage certificate(s)
- Divorce decrees(s)
- Military discharge papers (DD-214)
- Bank statements, checkbooks, similar documents
- Safe-deposit box, documents, keys
- Insurance policies
 - Life Medical Auto (Title, Leases) Disability
 - Travel Home (Deed) Other
- Pension–retirement benefits
- Previous year's tax return
- Titles to motor vehicles
- Leases
- Any documentation of business ownership or business interests
- Final and outstanding health insurance claims
- Unpaid bills (*Utilities, phone, mortgage, etc.*)
- Social Media Accounts (*usernames and passwords*)

After locating the documents, it is helpful to obtain phone numbers and the contact person for each resource.

Additional considerations:

- Someone to recite Kaddish
- Order a memorial plaque at your place of worship
- Contact Chicago Jewish Funerals to order the monument
- Plan the dedication ceremony with Chicago Jewish Funerals anytime after 30 days of service/burial
- Mail acknowledgement cards

Social Security Benefits

The State of Illinois will notify Social Security as part of the death certificate registration process. Social Security will contact the family by mail, within two months of the death, to communicate survivor benefits for the surviving spouse and minor or disabled children. The Social Security office can be contacted by phone, 800-772-1213, or through their website, [ssa.gov](https://www.ssa.gov).



Veteran Burial and Memorial Benefits

Eligibility

Veterans discharged from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and service members who die while on active duty, as well as spouses and dependent children of veterans and active duty service members, may be eligible for VA burial and memorial benefits. The veteran does not have to predecease a spouse or dependent child for them to be eligible. For the reserves or National Guard, eligibility is not established by active duty for training. For comprehensive information and forms related to veteran's benefits please go to [usa.gov/veteran-burial-benefits](https://www.usa.gov/veteran-burial-benefits).

Chicago Jewish Funerals Cares About You

Our knowledgeable and trained staff is always here for you. We can help you find a wide variety of support – from healthcare to counseling to social services.

- Caregiving resources for needy family members
- Charitable organizations that accept donations of household goods, furnishings and clothing
- Support groups for coping with loss
- Printed materials on bereavement and loss
- Reliable home care services
- Appropriate hospice organizations

Chicago Jewish Funerals can provide consultation regarding advance directives and healthcare power of attorney, and answer any other questions you may have. Please call us at 847.229.8822, your calls are welcome at any time.





The way it should be.

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