



An attorney will be able to answer questions like:

- How do I find out what the deceased owned and what bills they had?
- Am I allowed to open their mail?
- What do I do with the money in their bank account?
- What do I do with the last social security payment the deceased received?
- Will I owe taxes?



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If you have been named Trustee of a Trust or Personal Representative in a Will in Oregon

You've just lost someone you loved, one of the hardest things a human can endure. It is natural to feel devastated by the weight of grief and responsibilities.

Hopefully, you have the blessing of supportive friends and family to help you deal with the pain of your loss. Take a moment to make sure you are meeting your own needs and giving yourself space to grieve.

You are faced with the prospect of winding up the affairs of the deceased, paying debts you've never heard of with assets you've never seen. This can be overwhelming, but help is available and you don't have to face this alone.

1. Find the estate plan. Even if an estate plan was validly executed, it's not much use if no one can find it. If no will or proof thereof can be found, the state of Oregon will administer the estate according to the laws of "intestacy," which is a generalized will for anyone who dies without a written will.

2. Order multiple original death certificates. Courts and many financial institutions will want originals, not copies. Death Certificates take a while to ship, so it's best to order several the first time.

3. Notify the credit agencies like Transunion, Experian, and Equifax, to lock down the deceased's accounts so that no one can steal their identity.

4. Meet with an attorney for a consultation.

Consider Contacting an Attorney

An attorney experienced in probate law and estate planning will be a valuable resource who can help you interpret both the legal documents and your specific circumstances to ascertain whether your situation requires the courts to be involved and how best to fulfill your duties and honor the last wishes of the deceased.