



My



Final



Footprints



by
Cathy Weaver



Please regard this
document
as a compilation
of topics
and instructions
that may help
all of us
prepare
for the
inevitable...





My Final Footprints™

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except for

Part TWO,

which is intended to be
printed and copied
for the purpose of
implementation
of final wishes,
if the reader
so chooses.





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Disclaimer:

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included here is at your own risk.



May this publication
serve as an ice breaker,
a conversation starter,
a workbook,
a catalyst,
an inspiration,
a motivator,
for discussing those
tough topics
we all would
rather avoid.





How many
lives
we touch
matters
much more
than
how many
years
we live ...

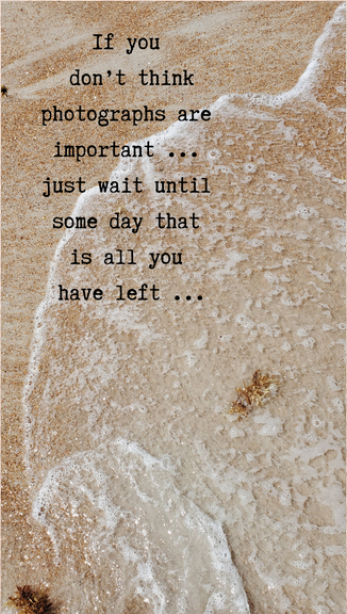
Blessed are
they who
mourn ...
for they
shall be
comforted ...

Matthew 5:4

PART ONE of this document is from me to you, telling you what information you might want to gather and make available **AND DISCUSS** with those close friends and loved ones who you will be leaving behind. This type of compilation would have been a huge help to me while I was facing all the deaths of loved ones and acquaintances that I have experienced.



I am excited for
the day to arrive
when I do not
have to miss you
any longer...



If you
don't think
photographs are
important ...
just wait until
some day that
is all you
have left ...

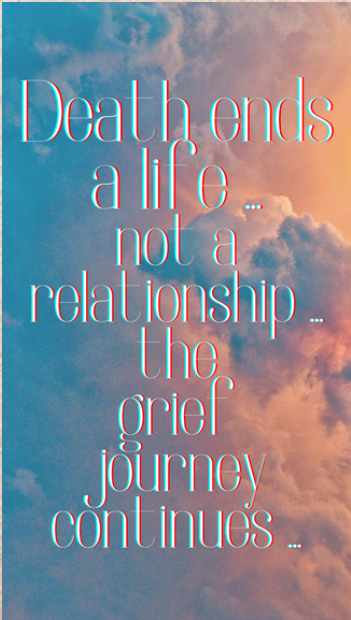
PART TWO of this document, as I am encouraging everyone to print out and make a copy or two, will be from you to your special person, your loved one, your next of kin, for processing and implementing once you have died.

This is written from experience and my wish is that you don't have to learn all of this the hard way, the very hard way.

Feel this hug.



Psalm 34:18
**THE LORD
IS NEAR
TO THE
BROKEN-HEARTED
AND SAVES
THE CRUSHED
IN SPIRIT .**



Death ends
a life ...
not a
relationship ...
the
grief
journey
continues ...

PART ONE – from ME to you:

The messages included here are based on my personal opinions and stem from my own personal experiences and some from the situations my friends have had to live through.

Be sure to consult an attorney, financial advisor, funeral director, accountant, tax preparer, and maybe a final expenses expert for your specifics.

With the numerous deaths of loved ones and friends I have experienced, my remaining family and friends have requested that I compile a master list of what needs to be done and found and discussed before, and certainly to be available after, a loved one has died.

Death is a subject that few are comfortable speaking about, usually until it is too late. Rather than wait until a diagnosis, or prognosis that is not good, let's do this NOW, shall we? Do you have your affairs in order, the doctor will ask. Is your will up-to-date, the attorney will ask. Do you have pre-paid burial plans set up for you and your family, the funeral director will ask. Where is a copy of the most recent tax return, the accountant will ask.

We all know people who feel they have absolutely nothing of value to dispose of so why bother with all this pre-planning. By the time you have gone over the subjects included here, perhaps you will realize that everyone on this planet needs this e-book in their records.

Do you have a succession plan for your business? Do you have Key Man insurance on you and/or your business partner? Will your website continue to function with the new colleague at the helm? Who is your web master? Do they know your contact person and/or your wishes for the contingency plan?

As I said, there are many things to consider and think about, and having all of this assembled and discussed will keep the person you leave in charge, in the loop. There are those folks who say they do not care what 'they' do with all their stuff once they are gone ... so guess what ... the **THEY** do not have any rights to even dispose of your property without the proper paperwork. HmMMM ... who is **THEY?**

If your answers to any of these topics is not definitive, as in I am not sure, that is what this e-book will hopefully spark in you to get these compilations accomplished, while you still can. We all know people who had the best intentions and then they became the caregiver for someone, leaving no time for them to get their own documents and folders created. It doesn't really matter if you have a file box or a file cabinet or a dresser drawer or a safe or a file folder to assemble these items; what matters is that you gather everything and TELL your selected person where that information is.

Please know that I am well aware of how incredibly uncomfortable some of these topics may be, but also, please realize that I do speak from experience and I suggest a discussion or several, with your chosen person/s so there are no, or at least fewer, surprises. This preparation is for your loved ones' benefit and certainly for your own peace of mind. I know what 'death fog' is and I know that sometimes a 'grief buffet' is NOT what you may need or want, but these are all topics that need to be addressed.

How many people in your family, and how many of your close friends, know the names of your physicians? Where is your insurance/medicare card?

Where do you keep your drivers license?

Who is designated to call your out-of-town family as the need arises?

Are you a Notary Public?

What is the name and phone number of a trusted neighbor? When is trash day in your neighborhood? Are there Homes Association rules and dues to be paid as we put the house on the market?

I have closed more estates than many financial advisors; some were in perfect order and a couple were in horrific condition, all scenarios turned out to be MY problems. Not only was I dealing with intense grief and funerals and celebrations of life, but now I had to do the paperwork to get these estates closed correctly.

I do not wish this travesty on anyone, thus this publication, my fourth book.

First of all, this is the time to be totally transparent.

The person who will go to this instructional document will be glad and grateful that you left nothing to their imagination, so they will be able to take your words and your notes and hopefully carry out your wishes from here, literally. Have you included what color or colors you would like everyone to wear to your Funeral or Celebration of Life? Do you want certain songs to be played, perhaps even in the hospice room? In the event you want a traditional burial, do you want an open casket? Have you thought about these things? Do you have a designated charity to support? In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: ...

Where is your current list of automatic payments that you have every month? Who would know where to look for that list? Do these payments come from your bank account or are these charges added to your credit card accounts each month?

Remember, once you have completed this entire book and gathered the suggested specifics, you will then be ready to discuss everything with someone, perhaps a couple of special confidants, correct?

Let's make our first attempt at getting things in order. Many of us will need to revisit this paperwork many times to get everything we want included and to leave no stone unturned.

We cannot really pre-grieve but we can most assuredly pre-plan.

How many times have you been married?

Are your former spouses still listed as beneficiaries on any of your properties that you co-owned together? Are there children and stepchildren and step-grandchildren and former spouses from your own children who may think that they have rights to your leavings?

Did you know that just about anyone can make claims to just about anything, and if there are no documents in place to make sure they have been left out intentionally, it may be a drawn-out lawyer-involved process. Again, these are just some things to think about.

Please note, much of this content comes from personal experience from me and certainly many of my friends, so here are a few terms I have heard and learned about during my intensive grief journeys:

Primary, Secondary, Tertiary beneficiaries, Survivor Benefits, Death Benefits, Step-Up in Basis, Warranty Deed, Testamentary Trust, Living Trust, Annuity, Tax-deferred, Immediate Annuity, Retirement Plan, Successor Trustee, Codicil, Per Stirpes, Those left out of this document have been done so intentionally, Family Limited Partnership, Joint Tenant, Right of Survivorship, Fair and Equitable division of assets, Estate freeze, Special Needs Trust, Business Succession Plan, Key Man Insurance, Charitable Leads Trust, Charitable Remainder Trust, Estate tax id number, District Court, Common Law Marriage, Letter of intent, Genealogy, POD – payable on death (and why do I care), TOD – transfer on death (and why do I care), Executrix, Executor, Legacy, Decedent, Probate Period, Irrevocable, Revocable, Intestate, POA - Power of Attorney, DPOA - Durable Power of Attorney, Advance Healthcare Directive, Guardianship, Witness, Incapacitated Adult, Estate inventory and distribution, Inheritance tax, Death Benefit, Bereavement, Full Disclosure, Gift tax ...

the list of similar terms could go on for pages and pages.

These are just a sampling of the terms I have been handed over the years so I don't want you to be broadsided. I have learned more about Final Wishes than I ever even realized existed. Find a trusted advisor and get your questions answered and your plans designed specifically for your circumstances.

When we know better, we do better, right?

I do realize that I have not left many lines to fill out in the Part II section. This is intentional as not everyone compiling this information will require the same number of entries. Some of you may need several pages and some of you may actually need fewer. Adjust the numbers of pages to print off as your specific estate requires. I want this merely to serve as a template and not be too bulky if some topics are not necessary in your case.

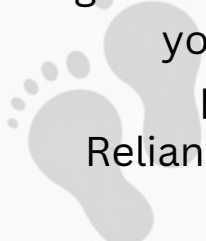
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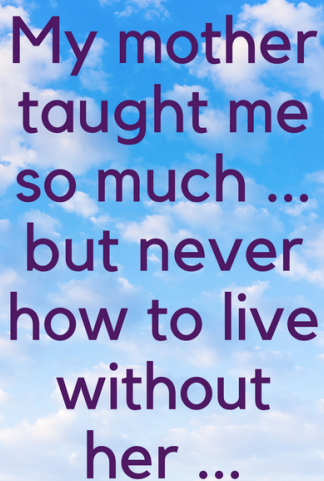
**So let's add this
standard disclaimer:**

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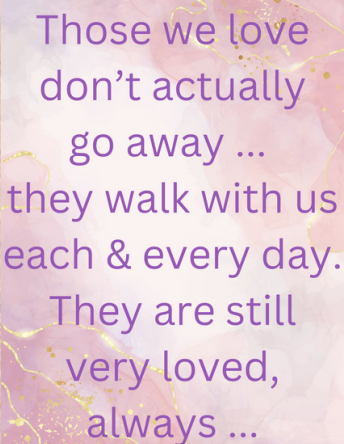
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My mother
taught me
so much ...
but never
how to live
without
her ...



Those we love
don't actually
go away ...
they walk with us
each & every day.
They are still
very loved,
always ...

PART TWO: My Final Love Letter:

Dear Loved One,

By the time you read this, I will have gone to my final home, and I created this document because I wanted you to know how to finalize and dispose of my earthly belongings that I am leaving behind.

I know this is difficult, but I am hoping these pages will relieve some of your questions and stressful issues. I am so grateful that we had a couple of chances to discuss much of this beforehand.

With love and thanks – I have had a wonderful life and I am thrilled that you were such a big part of it.

Signed:_____

Dated:_____

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Address:

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

Social Security Number:

Marital Status at death:

Mother's Name:

Mother's Birthplace:

Father's Name:

Father's Birthplace:

My Education – highest completed:

Career:

Military:

Date and Place of induction:

Date and Place of discharge:

The Family Tree: you will need my Social Security number when you go to the funeral home as well as information regarding my parents' names and birth places as well as my maiden name and my place of birth, my employment, my marital status upon my death.

This list may help you:
(some of these items
may seem repetitive,
but your special person
may be too ‘death foggy’
to keep them straight
– I get it)

**(This may be the perfect place to
include a copy of a genealogy)**

Siblings
Children
Grandchildren
Grandparents
Aunts, Uncles, Cousins
Stepchildren
Step-Grandchildren

First things first:
(there may be several things
to really do first
– be patient with yourself – I know this is hard)

My Postal Service **mailbox** number is ____
and it is across the street
and the key is located in the _____
so please have _____
get my mail each day or so,
as forms will most likely be delivered
here on my behalf that you might need.

You know I want _____ to have
my **pets** so here are the names of who
wants what animal _____.

Here is the **schedule** of their meals and other
specifics as well as treats and food,
to keep their schedules consistent.
Please know that **pets grieve, too**, so I know
_____ will be compassionate
with my furry loved ones.

My **veterinarian's name**
and contact information is _____.

Memorial Arrangements:

This is the funeral home I want to use – contact _____ and here is the phone number _____. The copies of the **pre-paid** documents are located in _____.

You will need about a dozen or so, (maybe more depending upon the size of the estate and the heirs) **copies of the death certificate** – the funeral home consultant will ask how many.

Do not give the **original** certificates unless it is mandated. Make copies front and back and keep a copy, front and back on your phone, as some of my accounts will require the death certificate to be emailed.

I want a **Celebration of Life/Funeral** at this Church/location and this is the person to contact _____. Make sure to have someone stay at my house, for security purposes and in case there are any flower or food deliveries during the service.

This should be one of your friends as my friends will be at the Celebration.

Be sure to call my **place of employment** to let them know I have died – here is the contact person and the phone number _____.

These are some of the other people to call when I die – and please ask these to notify the rest of the friends in our circles. Here is the **obituary** I want published – feel free to edit if any specifics have changed. This is the newspaper to call to have it published _____. Please include the attached photo.

These are my wishes for the funeral with specifics, all the way down to songs to be played and pall bearers and who will perform the service – **Cremation** – urn – jewelry to be made from cremains – **Casket**, open or closed and I want to wear _____ and I want the clothes/jewelry/artifacts buried with me – Burial location – here is the **cemetery** where I want my remains to be – what I want written on my tombstone or burial plate – what has been paid for already and what needs to be paid from my estate. I do want **flowers** and this is what kind _____ OR in lieu of flowers, please make a **donation** to _____ in my memory. I request that everyone wear the color _____ or wear a _____ to my **memorial service**.

**Now for my financial records
and other important documents:**

The combination to the **safe/s** is _____
and it is located in my _____.

My **will and/or trust papers** are located in the
_____. Specifics to my items and
accounts are included in these documents.

The **attorney** to call for assistance is
_____.

My **financial advisor** is _____ and he/she
will be helpful with specifics.

The account documents are located
in my _____. **Usernames and passwords**
to my accounts are located in the
_____.

Check with the **Veterans** Department
and/or the **Civil Service** agency to see if
I am due any benefits
for my estate to receive.
This is the number to the
agency I work with _____.

Here is the list of **bank accounts** and the branch locations I use most _____. Usernames and passwords are in the _____.

The key to my **safe deposit box** is in the _____ and is located at this branch _____.

Be sure to cancel these **credit cards** _____. My automatic payments list, **before you cancel** my credit cards, is in the _____.

The person to call regarding my final **tax preparation** is _____. My most recent tax return is located in my _____.

My **mortgage company info** and account documents are in the _____ and my **insurance agent** for my cars and houses and other properties is _____.

These are my **life insurance** policies _____ and they are located in the _____.

Contact the company noted on each policy. Each company will have specifics regarding the processing of **death benefits**.

The location for my **birth certificates** and those of my spouse and children are in the _____.

Titles to my cars and other important documents may be found in the _____.

Car registrations are in each vehicle in the _____.

My drivers license is in my _____.

Be sure to cancel these services and subscriptions _____ so the estate will not continue to be liable.

My **cell phone provider** is _____ and the pass code to get into my phone is _____. Contact the provider to see what steps to take to turn the phone over to _____.

To get into my **computer**, the **passcode** is _____ and the **PIN** – personal identification number - is _____.

My **email addresses and passwords** are _____.

In order to access my **social media accounts**, here is the list: _____.

Online usernames and passwords –

I want all of my online presence deleted or

I want all of my online presence to remain ‘active’

I want my **social media** connections to be aware of my death or I do not want my death announced on

social media: Facebook, Twitter, Alignable, TikTok,

Clubhouse, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, YouTube,

Spotify, Other: _____.

Here are some very **specific instructions** for you to follow regarding my _____ and how to continue to receive income from my _____. The titling of the following accounts needs to be changed to _____.

These are very specific items and **family heirlooms** that I want to go to _____ - more instructions are in my will and/or trust but these are intentionally separate: _____.

I know this list is extensive but I don't want you to have to guess as to what to do with anything remaining so here are a few last messages and requests:

Prized possession: _____.

Top secret info just for you: _____.

Finally, here is something I want you to know/have as I wanted to **leave no questions** remaining _____.

Here are a couple things I did not add in the main part of this document but I want you to be aware of: _____.

***Know that
I love you
and I know
how hard this is
– I am hoping
this compilation
of my
Final Wishes
has helped you
just a bit.
No more tears,
get on with
your life.
You are loved,
each and
every day.
Until we
meet again ...***

