

# MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHO WILL INHERIT YOUR TWITTER ACCOUNT!

*Learn how Digital Estates, and the rights to manage those accounts, are transferred to someone else after a death.*

We have many transitional and estate plans in place, ranging from healthcare directives and wealth-transfer to succession planning and legacy preservation. However, most of us are unaware what happens to our digital assets when we die.

Digital assets are characterized as any data about you, or originated by you, that exists in digital form either online or on an electronic device, to include the passcodes necessary to access the digital material. All of your digital property encompasses what is known as your digital estate.

An ordinary tech-savvy person unwittingly has multiple assets in digital form. How do we ensure that our heirs get access to our password-protected social media accounts, email, entertainment streaming services, cloud storage, healthcare and insurance accounts, shopping sites and web-based wealth management and banking accounts?

Digital estate planning is the process of organizing your digital property and assets and determining what should happen to that property after death.

If possible, make it official. Depending on where you live, you may be able to name a Digital Executor in a legally binding document, such as your Will or an addendum to a Will. This designated person would follow your wishes as laid out in the digital estate plan or could at least assist your Executor with the digital aspects of your estate.

Depending on the digital property, the way you want assets managed may vary. While you might want certain accounts to be archived or saved, some should be deleted or erased, while others may be transferred to family members, friends, or business colleagues. For each digital account or asset you have, specify how you would like your Digital Executor to handle that asset.



By creating a digital estate plan, your Digital Executor can efficiently:

- Locate and access information contained in your online accounts
- Determine if your digital property has financial value that must be submitted for probate
- Distribute or transfer ownership of digital assets to the appropriate recipients
- Avoid online identity theft

At a minimum, you should collect, frequently update and store this information in a secure but accessible location either with your attorney, in an online storage platform, or in a locked file cabinet or safe at your home or office.



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