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# TM PARKER

*What to Leave Behind:*

A Practical Guide for the People You Love

*A will is essential, but it is not the whole picture. These four areas of practical preparation live outside your legal documents and the people who love you will be deeply grateful to you for leaving it with them.*

## Your Digital Life

You have more digital accounts than you can name. Without a record of what exists and how to get in, the people you love will face a painful and frustrating search.

- Create a secure document listing your accounts, login credentials, and instructions for each.
- Consider two separate lists: one for socials/personal accounts to share with a trusted confidant, one for financial and business accounts for the person managing your estate.
- Note which accounts should be closed, which memorialized, and which hold financial value.
- Store it somewhere accessible and tell at least one trusted person where to find it.
- Consider a password manager or digital estate planning service

## Your Funeral Wishes

A will is often not found until well after a death and after funeral decisions are made. If your wishes only live there, they may not be known in time.

- Write your preferences down separately and give a copy to at least one trusted person.
- Include your preferences: burial vs. cremation, tone of service, specific people to notify, in lieu of flowers if appropriate.
- You don't need to pre-plan with a funeral home, simply leave your thoughts with someone you trust.
- Note any religious, cultural, or personal traditions you want honored.
- Even a one-paragraph note is far better than nothing.

## The Practical Logistics

The families who navigate loss most smoothly had someone who left a simple map, enough to know where to start.

- Note where important papers live: will, trust, insurance policies, deeds, tax returns.
- List recurring bills, subscriptions, and automatic payments that will need to be cancelled.
- Identify your key contacts: attorney, financial advisor, accountant, insurance agent.
- Include any debts, loans, or financial obligations that need to be addressed.
- Note any safe or lockbox, with combinations.
- If you own a business, identify who has authority to act on its behalf and where the governing documents are kept.

## What You Want Them to Remember

This is the part no one talks about and the part families most wish they had. It doesn't need to be elaborate. It just needs to exist.

- A playlist for your memorial service, or a folder of photos you'd want shared.
- A note explaining family history, important stories, or things you want them to know.
- Document your chosen family and the role you want them to play, especially if they are not your legal family.
- Record a video message if writing feels too formal — even a few minutes is a gift.
- Letters to the people you love, to be opened after you are gone.

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