



What Do I Do Now?

“Tears have a wisdom all their own. They come when a person has relaxed enough to let go and to work through their sorrow. They are the natural bleeding of an emotional wound, carrying the poison out of the system. Here lies the road to recovery.”

F. Alexander Magoun

What To Do Immediately

- Contact immediate family and close friends. Enlist them to help you.
- Select a mortuary.
- Secure property. Lock up homes and vehicles.
- Notify clergy regarding the funeral or memorial service.
- Obtain death certificates. These will be provided by the mortuary. It may be helpful to have a dozen or so copies.

What Do I Do Next?

- Notify lawyer or personal representative.
- Notify insurance companies (i.e. automobile), for immediate cancellation and refund of premium.
- Carefully check all life and casualty insurance policies for death and survivor benefits including:
 - Social Security
 - Veteran’s Administration
 - Credit Union
 - Trade Union
 - Fraternal Organizations
 - Current Employer
- Look for all bank accounts (numbers and locations).
- If living alone, notify landlord, utilities, and post office.
- Locate the deeds and titles to property.
- Check promptly on all debts, mortgages, and installment payments. If there is a delay in meeting payments, consult with creditors and negotiate for more time.
- Prepare a list of persons to receive “thank you” notes for flowers, cards, etc.