



## What Can You Do... about your Digital Legacy?

### Overview

Over the last ten years the internet has changed the ways in which we interact and communicate with one another.

It is important for all of us to understand how these changes have impacted the ways in which we prepare for death and are remembered. This applies to whether we are simply members of the public or professionals whose job it is to advise and support people in relation to dying, death and bereavement.

### What is a digital legacy?

A digital legacy is the digital information that is available about someone following their death. Someone's digital legacy is often formed by information that they leave online. This may include any website or blog listings about the person, their social media profiles, photos, videos, gaming profiles and interactions they have had online.

Someone's digital legacy can also be informed by information that is created or co-created by others. This may include interactions that have occurred on someone's Facebook wall.

### What are digital assets?

Digital assets are possessions that are purchased, stored or available on digital devices or online services. These may include photos, videos, music, websites, blogs and eBooks.

### Where are my digital assets and digital legacy stored?

Digital assets and someone's digital legacy are often spread across two main locations.

- 1) Online services (for example websites, social media sites, emails and cloud services)
- 2) Digital devices (for example, mobile phones, tablets, laptops, hard drives and computers).

### When I die who will own my digital assets and digital legacy?

Your digital assets and digital legacy may be owned by you, your beneficiaries and the online services you use. Each online service has its own privacy or end of life policy. It is important to understand the policies for the services that you use in order to know who owns and has access rights to your digital assets and digital legacy.

## How can I prepare for death digitally and where should I start?

It is important that each person understands the end of life policies and processes available for each online service and digital device that they use.

The Digital Legacy Association have created a number tutorials '[for the public](#)' that address the most popular digital devices and online services.

## How can I get my digital affairs in order?

We recommend visiting Dying Matters [thinking ahead page](#). Here you will find lots of information and useful links about planning for death in the physical world.

When making plans for your digital assets that are not of a monetary/financial value please (for example; social media sites, personal photos, videos etc.) we recommend making a [social media will](#). This should only contain non-sensitive information about the accounts you use and what you would like to happen to them and the content they contain. We recommend including digital assets that have financial value within your will.

## Support for healthcare and social care professionals

We have updated our national, digital assets and digital legacy leaflet for Dying Matters Awareness Week. The new version is [free to download](#) and suitable for hospitals, carers and hospices.

**The Digital Legacy Association**

**SORTING OUT YOUR DIGITAL ASSETS AND DIGITAL LEGACY**

Photos, videos and important documents are often stored on electronic devices (like mobile phones, tablets and computers). They can also be saved 'in the cloud' (on services such as Facebook, Twitter and within emails).

If you own a mobile phone or use the Internet for work or leisure you may want to read our digital estate checklist...

**FURTHER SUPPORT**

If you would like to speak to a digital champion in your local hospice or hospital about any of the areas highlighted above, please ask to speak with:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital or Hospice: \_\_\_\_\_

**HAVE YOU MADE ANY PLANS FOR YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS TO REMAIN ONCE YOU DIE?**

Yes, I have	7.92%
No, I haven't	89.92%
No	2.10%

**DOES SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOURSELF KNOW THE PASSWORD FOR YOUR MOBILE PHONE?**

Yes	42.58%
No	34.77%
No Password	21.48%
No mobile phone	1.17%

**ABOUT THE DIGITAL LEGACY ASSOCIATION**

The Digital Legacy Association supports the general public, healthcare and social care professionals with areas relating to digital estate planning, digital legacy and bereavement.

- Our website's for the public section includes a range of tutorials to help empower the general public when making decisions about their online accounts.
- Our free framework was created to educate and increase conversations by social care and healthcare professionals with patients about digital asset planning and digital legacy.

**AWARENESS**  
**EDUCATION**  
**RELEVANT CONVERSATIONS**  
**IMPROVED DECISIONS**  
**BETTER**

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The [digital assets and digital legacy framework](#) is also available for social care and healthcare professionals. The framework explores the different services and platforms used in the UK in relation

to end of life. The framework's focus is to increase conversations between professionals, patients and the general public about digital assets and digital legacy. To download the framework, [click here](#).

## Useful Links

- [www.DigitalLegacyAssociation.org](http://www.DigitalLegacyAssociation.org)
- <http://www.dyingmatters.org/page/planning-ahead>
- <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/blog/end-of-life-planning-in-todays-connected-world/48696>
- <http://spcare.bmj.com/content/4/1/13>



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Legacy Association**