



# Family Matters

*Important Information for You and Those You Love*

**FAMILIES** — will need to give consideration to insurance, asset, property, and planning matters. For your convenience, we have summarized key information for each of these subjects. Professional guidance is suggested for further clarification.

**INSURANCE** — Contact the agents of all insuring companies as soon as possible. Agents will supply the necessary claim forms. All policies should be closely examined with agents including lapsed policies to check for any extended coverage. Any survivor's life insurance policies, which name the decedent as a beneficiary, should be changed.

**AUTOMOBILE** — Any titled automotive vehicle, such as a car, truck or recreational vehicle, becomes a part of the estate when the decedent is the sole owner. Contact the Division of Motor Vehicles for information regarding the transfer of title.

**BANK ACCOUNTS** — A bank account in the decedent's name may require probate action or a consent to transfer from a government agency. Some banks may permit a release from smaller accounts for the payment of funeral expenses. Consult an attorney concerning the legalities of a survivor withdrawing from a joint account. Safe deposit boxes may be accessible if held jointly or may be accessible only to the decedent's estate executor.

**STOCKS & BONDS** — Promptly contact issuing brokers. Stocks and bonds held solely in the decedent's name must generally be probated; those owned jointly can be transferred to the surviving owner. Savings bonds held in the sole name of the decedent must generally be probated. Bonds may be transferred to a named survivor, subject to estate taxes.

**RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS** — Consult employers regarding the status of retirement plans, survivor benefits and claim forms required. If the decedent was paying into an IRA—if self-employed or without an employer's pension plan—the amount in the account will go to the beneficiaries. Consult the agent, attorney, banker, broker or planner handling the IRA.

**REAL ESTATE**—Real estate jointly held by a husband and wife is automatically transferred to the surviving spouse. Property that is solely in the decedent's name, or owned jointly by the decedent and a party other than the surviving spouse, may require probate action whether or not a will exists. Consult your attorney for further clarification.

**PRE-PLANNING**—After experiencing the loss of a loved one, families become aware of the many decisions which have to be made in a short period of time. To avoid this for other family members in the future and to make certain their personal wishes are carried out, many people decide to make funeral arrangements in advance. Prearrangements are usually less difficult due to the absence of the emotional trauma of a loss. Additionally, careful consideration can be given to one's funeral service, cemetery and expenses, thus minimizing future decisions.

**PRE-FUNDING** — Many families elect to pre-fund their pre-arranged funeral. Although this is not mandatory, it can offer many advantages. One can arrange the specific kind of service, merchandise and cemetery one desires at today's prices, and be assured of adequate funds for the future payment of the service and merchandise. This can reduce any future financial requirements for family members and be a source for peace of mind as well as a thoughtful act of consideration. We can assist you with a variety of pre-arranged funeral financing choices.



*Our Service Reflects Your Love®*

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