

1.

Make Arrangements

This is a difficult time and the last thing you want to do is deal with a memorial service and financial matters. This is a time when you are most vulnerable and not thinking clearly so planning ahead can help. If you are in a situation where you have not made any plans then you should look for a reputable funeral home. Asking trusted friends and relatives should help in finding one and here is a good website on the subject of planning a funeral. <http://www.icfa.org/funerals.htm#funeral15>

Financial matters are another issue that needs to be addressed. AARP has a very good website that will help you in getting organized after the death of a loved one. http://www.aarp.org/families/grief_loss/a2004-11-15-finalchecklist.html

2.

Get Multiple Death Certificates

This is very important and often overlooked. In many cases over a dozen and sometimes two dozen are used in the process of getting an estate settled. It is also a good idea to get extra copies of the letters of authority from the probate court.

3.

Inventory Property

The office of the Attorney General has a very good website on completing this process and what you should look for.

[http://www.atg.wa.gov/
dealingwithdeath/oncedeathoccurs.
aspx](http://www.atg.wa.gov/dealingwithdeath/oncedeathoccurs.aspx)

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