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## **Your On-Line Life Will Continue to Live After You. Plan Ahead.**

Facebook. Twitter. WhatsApp. Snapchat. Instagram. LinkedIn. Tumblr. Just how many social media and information sharing sites are among those for which you have an account? What about your email accounts? We can only imagine the number and diversity of future social media sites which will arise over the next ten years. Some of these listed sites may be relegated to the attic of the internet collecting dust next to your Myspace page. Yes. Your Myspace page still exists and others can still access it!

What happens to your electronic life upon your demise? The short answer is that it lives on without you. Your immediate response may be: "So what? I have moved on and others can have a window into who I was." But perhaps there may be information and data among these sites which you no longer would want shared. There could be family-related information or photographs you no longer want readily available. There may be business interests no longer the business of others. You may just want finality.

Many established social media sites, but certainly not all, have matured to include steps to deal with legacy (i.e., after death) user concerns. Most newer sites incorporate such measures as part of their platform. Yet, dealing with each of these sites remains a painful and lengthy process for loved ones. You can help to ease that burden.

Consider appointing a Digital Executor to address your on-line existence in the event of death or incapacity. Such a representative need not be appointed in a will (although good practice would do so). Regardless whether the appointment is made by power of attorney, will or other writing acceptable to social media platforms, a Digital Executor can more readily access sites and follow your expressed wishes.

Also consider using a password management service which protects and stores your passwords and provides one log-in for you to access accounts. These services create complex passwords for all your underlying accounts which you never have to remember. As importantly, your trusted Digital Executor can then access accounts to comply with your directives. Be sure to use a password management service with a digital legacy feature to provide a "how to" roadmap for the Digital Executor.

Estate planning embodies so much more than preparing a will or trust. It should comprehensively review all aspects of your life to properly plan for when you can no longer act, including how to address your digital legacy. To learn more about comprehensive estate plans and help those addressing your affairs, contact Michael Geiger at Geiger Law & Mediation. Michael's direct line is (901) 219-5549.

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Michael J. Geiger, Esq.  
Geiger Law & Mediation  
[www.geigerattorney.com](http://www.geigerattorney.com)

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(901) 219-5549 (Direct)  
(901) 616-1235 (Office)  
[michael@geigerattorney.com](mailto:michael@geigerattorney.com)