

# AT&T Ameritech /SBC Retirees - We are AASBCR®

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## BLUE BULLETIN

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### **Navigating the Road to Aging – Dealing with Death**

Death and dying are an inevitable part of life. Whether you are facing your own death or the death of someone you love, it is certain that death will enter into your life. So, it makes sense to be prepared. Creation of an estate plan can give you great peace of mind now, as well as spare your loved ones a lot of hassle later.

### **Things You Should Consider as You Create Your Estate Plan**

*IMPORTANT: As you compile your estate plan, be sure to include the passwords for any device, account, or document that may be or is password protected. This includes cell phones, computers, tablets, bank accounts, online accounts/applications, etc.*

1. Create a contact list that includes people who should be immediately notified of the death (immediate family, close friends, etc.) as well as people who should be invited to the funeral/memorial service.
2. Provide instructions on what kind of funeral services and/or interment arrangements you would want. Include the location of your burial plot.
3. Create a list, including account numbers, phone numbers and passwords (including answers to security questions like “make of your first car”) if applicable, for those organizations that should be notified. These should include but are not limited to the following:
  - a. Social Security at 800-772-1213. (Often the funeral director will do this, but Social Security prefers to hear from a family member.)

You should know that Social Security will not pay for the month when the person died, and any payments received for that month and any subsequent months will have to be paid back to SS. It is common for SS to pay a month or two after it should have stopped. However, SS pays one month later, that is, the January payment is for December, so if the recipient died in January and then received a January payment, that would not have to be reimbursed because the January payment was for December, when the person was still alive.

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- b. Retirement pensions and 401(k) accounts. (Note: Upon the policyholder's death, accounts and policies where beneficiaries have been listed will be released to the person or entity listed. The beneficiary listing will take precedence regardless of what the deceased may have listed in their will or trust. Make sure that beneficiaries are up to date.)
- c. The name and number of your broker or financial planner should be readily available to your loved one or executor. Often your financial planner is the person who manages your 401(k).
- d. The AT&T Benefit Center at 877-722-0020. Upon the retiree's death AT&T healthcare may be cancelled. As long as the spouse/dependent is under medical coverage as of the date of death of the retiree, their coverage will expire the end of that month and then can be continued under company extended coverage – for as long as any contributions continue to be paid and as long as the plan is offered to retirees. (Note: If the spouse/dependent-stops making contributions, they will NOT be permitted to get back on the plan at a later date.)
- e. Life Insurance Providers. For AT&T Retirees, Fidelity should be notified at 800-416- 2363 and the AT&T Benefits should be notified at 877-722-0020. In many cases, AT&T dependents are entitled to both a death benefit and life insurance. Check with Fidelity to see if your beneficiaries are entitled to both and request the answer in writing. For non-AT&T policies, list the insurance agent's name, phone number and the policy number.
- f. All accounts in the deceased name. This would include all accounts that may need to be closed after their death such as bank, credit cards, utilities, cable, and cell. List where the accounts are held, i.e., bank location, cable company, etc.

You may want to determine if any of the service-providing accounts, e.g., cable, internet, bill a month in advance. If so, you may be entitled to receive a refund for those fees paid for services not used.

- 4. If accounts are password protected, be sure to provide a list of passwords. On saving and checking accounts which are not joint accounts, be sure the accounts are set up as POD (payable on death) or TOD (transferable on death).

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5. Notify the county of residence if the titles to the home, auto, and/or boat need to be changed from the deceased to the survivor.

## **Documents and Information Your Loved One or Designated Person Should Have or Know Where to Find**

1. Your will and/or trust documents, including Durable or Financial Power of Attorney, Living Will, and Healthcare Power of Attorney.
2. Forms naming the beneficiaries for all financial accounts: bank, broker, life insurance, annuity.
3. If you have young children, their guardianship information.
4. Last year's tax return, for guidance in preparing decedent's return, and record of SSN and address.
5. Any veteran benefits your dependents may be entitled to.
6. Safety deposit box keys. Be sure your loved one or designated person is listed on the box.
7. Titles to home, car, boat or where to find them.
8. Where to find marriage and birth certificate and recent credit card statements.
9. Information about any organizations that you belong to such as AARP, the American Legion, Veteran's associations.

## **AT&T Retiree Discounts**

Surviving spouses and dependents should also be aware that retiree discounts and other benefits will be cancelled after the retiree dies. To determine how long any discounts would be in effect after the retiree's death you can call 877-377-9010 for DIRECTV, U-Verse TV, internet, AT&T phone (formerly U-Verse voice) support, land line and DSL. For wireless call 800-331-0500