

Hospice care ends. The family's does not. What is left over after the last professional goes home is grief with nowhere to file itself, and a list of practical things nobody was assigned.

TALK TO AN ATTORNEY ABOUT THIS

An attorney is worth a call early if there is a will to probate, real property to transfer, a trust to administer, an estate with debts, or any disagreement among heirs. Waiting rarely makes any of those simpler, and in some states there are filing deadlines that start running immediately.

PRACTICAL, IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS

- ☐ Who notifies family, friends, and the people who were part of daily life?
- ☐ Who contacts Social Security, pensions, and the VA?
- ☐ Who handles insurance claims and final medical bills?
- ☐ Who returns or disposes of medical equipment and unused medication?
- ☐ Who has the will, and who is the executor?
- ☐ Who cancels services, accounts, and subscriptions?

THE OTHER PART

The grief in this kind of loss often started long before the day it ended, and the ending does not close it. If the person who carried the most is now the person with nothing to carry, that is worth saying out loud to someone.
