

# PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS TO FAMILY

This is being written as a supplement to my estate plan and arrangements. I have decided to relay to my family my personal objectives, with the hope that in several areas my ideas or wishes will be helpful in handling my estate and investment matters and in making important decisions.

However, a note of caution should be expressed - that hindsight is preferable to foresight. Therefore, the thoughts expressed in this letter should not be considered rigid or binding and they should always be tempered by a careful consideration of the facts and circumstances existing when a decision has to be made.

• Funeral, last rites, burial services, cemetery, etc.:

• Provisions relating to medical care, nursing home, etc.:

• My wishes regarding life support systems.:

• My wishes regarding organ donor transplantation.:

• My recommendations regarding investment philosophy.:

• From whom to seek medical, legal and financial counsel.:

• Goals I consider very important for my family.:

• Special information or other comments for my spouse.:

• Other considerations for the family.:

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# This letter may be sealed and the envelope marked "To be opened in the event of my serious illness or death."

# DOCUMENT LOCATION RECORDS

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Spouse:
ık:
LOCATION AS LISTED ABOVE
A B C D E F

	A B C D E F
Life Insurance (individual)	
Other Death Benefits	
Property & Casualty Insurance .	
Health Insurance Policy	
Homeowners Insurance Policy	
List of Residence Contents	
Car Insurance Policy	
Employment Contracts	
Partnership Agreements	
List Checking/Savings Accts	
Bank Statements & Checks	
List of Credit Cards	
Certificates of Deposit	
Checkbooks	
Savings Passbooks	
Safe Combination (business)	
Safe Combination (home)	
Stock Purchase Plan	
Profit Sharing Plan	
Income and Gift Tax Returns	
Titles & Deeds to Real Estate .	
Title Insurance	

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	A B C D E F
Rental Property Records	
Debt Notes & Loan Agreements	
List of Stored Possessions	
List of Loaned Possessions	
Auto Ownership Records	
Boat Ownership Records	
Birth Certificates	
Citizenship Papers	
Adoption Papers	
Military Discharge Papers	
Marriage Certificate	
Children's Birth Certificates .	
Children's Adoption Papers	
Divorce/Separation Papers	
Names & Addresses of Relatives	
Names & Addresses of Friends	
Professional Memberships List .	
Fraternal/Civic Membership List	
Passports	
Tax Returns	

## SAFE DEPOSIT BOX CONTENTS

As a general rule, only those documents and valuables which are irreplaceable or difficult to replace need to be kept in a safe deposit box. Items which can be replaced with minimal inconvenience, such as passports, or those frequently needed for reference (canceled checks), can be kept in a safe place at home. However, it is a good idea to keep copies of items in a safe deposit box.

When filling out the rental forms for a safe deposit box you should be aware that if the renter dies, there are specific rules governing access to the box and its contents. Many people assume that should they die, a joint box holder or authorized deputy can immediately remove necessary documents from the box.

In many states, the safe deposit box is sealed upon the death of the renter. If there is a surviving tenant or deputy, he or she would not have access to the contents of the box until the Inheritance Tax Department of the County Auditor makes an inventory of the box and removes the will for probate.

The arrangements for the tax inventory are usually made by the deceased person's attorney. It generally takes a minimum of two or three days and frequently a month before the process is completed. After the tax inventory, the county auditor issues an authorization stating who may remove contents from the box.

Banks normally do not recommend what a tenant should or should not keep in a safe deposit box. However, anything that would be needed immediately following death, such as wills or insurance policies, probably should NOT be kept in the safe deposit box.

The original copy of a will can be kept in the fireproof safe of the attorney who prepared it. Keep in mind that the attorney who prepared the will is not necessarily the one who will probate the estate. The executor will select the attorney to probate the will unless the document directs otherwise. If the original will is kept with the attorney, it is a good idea to keep a copy of the will in the safe deposit box and another copy of the will at home where it is readily accessible for review.

Many box holders keep valuable articles, such as coin or stamp collections, which belong to their children or spouse. This should not be in their safe deposit box, since there is a presumption that these belong to the box holder. If such items are kept in a box, it is important to keep with them any papers denoting the owner and the origin of ownership or purchase.

#### **ITEMS WHICH SHOULD BE IN A BOX**

Abstracts of Properties Adoption Papers Appraisals of Valuables Automobile Titles Birth Certificates (original) Bonds (U. S. savings, corporate, government, church) Certificates of Deposit Citizenship Papers Coin and Stamp Collections Contracts and Agreements Copyrights and Original Text Court Decrees Credit Card List with phone numbers Death Certificates Deeds and Titles Disability Ins. - List of amounts, insurers, numbers Divorce Decrees and Agreements [] Employment Contracts Household Inventories (for insurance) Jewelry (valuable items and family heirlooms) Life Insurance - List of amounts, insurers, numbers Listing of bank and savings accounts and major assets Marriage Certificates (original) Military Discharge Papers Mortgage instruments and Cancellations Negatives of Important Photographs Naturalization Papers ☐ Patents and Original Designs Pension Certificates Precious Metals **Promissory Notes** Property and Casualty Insurance Policies **Savings** Certificates Stock or Bond Certificates **Treasured Photo Negatives** Trust Agreements (you and attorney should have copies) Valued Letters Veteran's Papers Wills (you and attorney should have copies) Video Tape and Photos of Household Contents

## ITEMS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE IN A BOX

Burial Instructions
Cemetery Deeds and Requests
Funeral Arrangement Requests
Homeowner or Auto Insurance Policies
Large Amounts of Cash (causes IRS questions)
Life Insurance Policies (put list in the box)
Medical and Disability Policies (put list in the box)
Medical Directive or Instructions regarding care
Power of Attorney
Property Owned by Someone Else (will be taxed as yours) (unless clearly documented as to origin or gift)

## **POWER OF ATTORNEY**

A Power of Attorney Agreement should NOT be placed in a safe deposit box. The absence or disability of the maker would leave the instrument inaccessible at the time when it may be needed. It is an excellent idea to execute two copies. Deliver one to the person holding the power and keep the other in a safe place.

Likewise, documents which comply with state regulations as "Living Wills" and constitute instructions with regard to life support and resuscitation efforts should not be placed in a person's safe deposit box where it may be inaccessible when needed most.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. LPL Financial and Integrated Financial Group do not provide legal advice or services. Please consult with a qualified professional regarding your specific situation.