

# Clearing out your loved one's home



Clearing out the home of a loved one who has passed away can be a challenging and emotional task. Here are some pieces of advice to keep in mind:

## What to know before starting

### Take your time.

Avoid rushing through the process. Allow yourself enough time to sort through belongings, make decisions thoughtfully, and process your emotions along the way.

### Start Small

Begin with small tasks (*like emptying the fridge or freezer or sorting the mail*) or specific areas of the home before tackling larger rooms or sentimental items. This approach can help you ease into the process and avoid feeling overwhelmed.

### Prioritize Important Documents

Look for and set aside important documents such as wills, trusts, financial records, insurance policies, car titles, and property deeds. These documents are essential for estate settlement and legal purposes.



## **Identify Valuables and Sentimental Items**

Take note of valuable items, family heirlooms, and sentimental belongings that hold special meaning. Decide how you want to handle these items, whether keeping, donating, or passing them on to family members.

## **Dispose Responsibly**

Properly dispose of items that are no longer needed or usable. Consider recycling, donating to charity, or arranging for appropriate disposal of items like electronics, medications, and hazardous materials.

## **Take Breaks and Practice Self-Care**

Pace yourself and take breaks as needed during the clearing-out process. Engage in self-care activities such as meditation, exercise, or spending time with loved ones to help manage stress and emotions.

## **Preserve Memories**

Consider ways to honor and preserve memories of your loved one, such as creating a memory book, digitizing photos and videos, or planting a memorial garden.

**Above all, be gentle with yourself and allow yourself to grieve as you navigate through this challenging time.**



# Where to search

When it comes to searching for hidden money or valuables in someone's house, especially after they've passed away, it can be helpful to think creatively and consider places that might not be immediately obvious. Here are some potentially "weird" or unexpected places where your loved one might have hidden valuables:

## Books

Check inside books, particularly if there are any older or rarely used books. Money can be hidden between pages or within the bindings

## Freezer

Some people hide money in the freezer, either wrapped in foil or placed inside containers among frozen food items.

## Furniture

Inspect furniture such as sofas, chairs, mattresses, and cushions. Money might be tucked away in pockets, seams, or underneath removable cushions.

## Clothing

Check pockets, folded clothes, and even shoes for hidden money. Sometimes people sew money into the lining of clothing items.

## Kitchen Appliances

Look inside kitchen appliances like blenders, mixers, or microwaves. Money can be hidden inside or behind removable parts.



## Household Items

Check inside containers, jars, cans, or boxes of household items such as cleaning supplies, toiletries, or pantry items.

## Wall Cavities

In older homes, people sometimes hide money or valuables behind walls or in hidden compartments within walls.

## Garage or Workshop

Search toolboxes, storage bins, or containers in the garage or workshop area. Money might be hidden among tools or equipment.

## Computer or Electronics

If your godfather used a computer, check digital files or folders for any information about hidden assets or accounts.

## Personal Belongings

Consider areas where your godfather kept personal items such as journals, diaries, or keepsake boxes. Valuables might be hidden among sentimental items.

## **These hiding spots may surprise you but trust us, we've seen it all!**

Keep in mind that while it's important to search for valuable items, it's also essential to approach the task with sensitivity and respect for your loved one's belongings. If you come across any important documents, financial records, or items that might be relevant to their estate, handle them carefully and if you were to become an Alix Family, you could use the Alix App to upload a copy of them into your secure Doc Vault!



# Where are the important documents to find?

When you start looking through important documents, we wanted to highlight a few that we are very interested in reviewing. These documents tend to be the most important when it comes to finding out everything that is in the estate:

- Deed/Title for the home
- Will/Trust (*if applicable*)
- Credit Card Statements
- Billing Statements
- Any Utility Bills
- Cell Phone Bill
- Internet Bill (*if applicable*)
- Driver's License
- Social Security Card
- Logins to email addresses or social media accounts
- Anything relating to additional assets



# What did you find?

While you search through the home, you'll find items that you'll want to give to other family members, sell, donate, or throw away. You can use the following section to keep track of what you have found, where you found it, and your plans for those items:

Item Found	Location	Plan



Item Found	Location	Plan

# A Place for you to add additional Notes:

