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A CURIYO.IO GUIDE

Before Anything Leaves the House

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR FAMILIES AND EXECUTORS



When someone passes away, families are often faced with a lifetime of belongings, documents, and memories.

In the first few days, the goal isn't to sort everything out.

It's to slow down, protect what matters, and avoid losing information that can never be recovered.

The Most Valuable Item Isn't Always the Most Expensive.

Some carry financial value.
Some carry family history.
Many carry both.

Document first. Decide later.

Financial Value
Collectibles, jewelry, artwork, memorabilia.

Family Stories
Letters, notes, and keepsakes.

Historical Significance
Documents, records, and meaningful items.

Sentimental Importance
Objects that connect generations.

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The First 72 Hours

A SIMPLE PLAN FOR A DIFFICULT TIME

The first 72 hours aren't about making big decisions — they're about protecting what matters, gathering key information, and creating a clear record. This checklist will help you take steady, practical steps so nothing important is lost.

Take it one step at a time.



1. Secure the Home and Key Items

KEEP PEOPLE, PETS, AND PROPERTY SAFE.

- ☐ Ensure the home is secure (locks, alarm codes)
- ☐ Collect keys, garage openers, and entry codes
- ☐ Arrange care for pets and dependents
- ☐ Check for time-sensitive mail or deliveries
- ☐ Take photos of each room before anything is moved
- ☐ Make a list of rooms to revisit

2. Gather Essential Information

FIND IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS EARLY.

- ☐ Locate the will or trust documents
- ☐ Find insurance policies (life, home, auto, etc.)
- ☐ Identify banks, financial accounts, and advisors
- ☐ Locate property deeds, titles, and mortgage info
- ☐ Find recent tax returns and financial statements
- ☐ Collect important passwords and digital access

3. Document What Exists

CREATE A RECORD BEFORE DECIDING.

- ☐ Photograph each room and key items
- ☐ Document collections, artwork, and valuables
- ☐ Make a preliminary inventory (use our worksheet)
- ☐ Capture names, dates, and stories when known
- ☐ Save texts, emails, and voicemails
- ☐ Do not discard or donate anything yet

4. Pause and Plan Next Steps

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS NOW.

- ☐ What items have personal or family significance?
- ☐ Are there unmarked boxes, storage units, or safes?
- ☐ Did they collect anything specific?
- ☐ Are there items from travel or military service?
- ☐ Who might know more about these items?
- ☐ What professionals (e.g., estate attorney, appraiser) might you need to consult?

Progress, not perfection.
Document first. Decide later.

Some things can be replaced.
Their story can't.

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Hidden Value Can Take Many Forms



Not every treasure is obvious.
The true value of an object is often discovered when its story is understood.

Before making decisions, take time to recognize the different ways items can carry value for your family.



Historical Significance

Objects can reveal moments in time and create a connection to the past.

- Military records and medals
- Old documents and certificates
- Letters and handwritten notes
- Newspapers and clippings
- Maps and other records



Family Stories

Every object holds a memory worth preserving.

- Recipe cards and cookbooks
- Travel souvenirs
- Photographs and photo albums
- Handwritten letters
- Awards and achievements



Sentimental Importance

Some things can't be replaced because of the way they make us feel.

- Items connected to loved ones
- Gifts with special meaning
- Childhood keepsakes
- Everyday items with irreplaceable memories
- Objects that reflect a life well lived



Cultural Relevance

Pieces of our heritage connect generations and preserve traditions.

- Cultural or religious items
- Traditional clothing and textiles
- Heirlooms passed down
- Items tied to family traditions
- Objects that represent your community

The true value of an object is often discovered when its story is understood.

Slowing down today helps protect tomorrow's memories.

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Before You Donate, Sell, or Discard

IT'S EASY TO PART WITH SOMETHING WHEN WE DON'T HAVE THE FULL STORY.

Take a moment to ask these questions before making any decisions.

A few extra minutes now can help protect memories, family history, and potential financial value.



1. Do we know what this is?

If you're unsure what an item is, don't guess. Document it.

YES

NO → **Document It First**
Take photos, notes, and any markings. Curiyo.io can help identify and reveal its story.

2. Do we know who owned it?

Understanding ownership adds important context.

NO → **Research & Ask**
Check for names, dates, or inscriptions. Ask family members who might know more.

YES

3. Do we know why it mattered?

The story behind an item is often its greatest value.

NO → **Ask Family Members**
Someone may know the story, tradition, or significance behind it.

YES

4. Do we know what it might be worth?

Some items have financial value. Others are priceless.

NO → **Get Insight**
Use resources or Curiyo.io to help identify and understand value.

YES

5. Do we know whether anyone in the family wants it?

Family connections can guide the decision.

KEEP & PRESERVE
Store it safely, share the story, and pass it on with meaning.

DOCUMENT & RESEARCH
Take photos, gather information, and learn more before deciding.

RELEASE THOUGHTFULLY
Donate, gift, or sell with confidence that you've done your due diligence.

When in doubt, document first.
You can always decide later.

Slowing down today helps protect tomorrow's memories.

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INVENTORY WORKSHEET

Inventory Worksheet

Use this simple worksheet to capture what you find. Photograph each item and note where it is located. The goal is to document first so you can make informed decisions later.

Document today. Preserve tomorrow.



Quick Start

- Go room by room
- Photograph each item or group
- Fill in what you know
- You can always add more later

Item Description What is it?	Location Where is it?	Photo Taken Yes / No	Story Known Yes / No	Notes What do you know about it?
		☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No	
		☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No	
		☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No	
		☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No	
		☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No	
		☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No	
		☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No	
		☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No	
		☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No	

This is not about deciding what to keep.
It's about making sure nothing important is lost.

When in doubt, document it.

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A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Every Object Has a Story

After serving as executor for a loved one's estate, I learned that some of the hardest decisions weren't financial.

They were deciding what to do with the objects that carried memories, stories, and history.

It was overwhelming to sort through a lifetime of belongings while trying to grieve, manage legal responsibilities, and help family members who were miles away.

I kept thinking, "If only we had documented these things earlier."

Curiyo.io was created to help families slow down, document what matters, and **preserve the stories behind the objects** before they disappear.

You don't have to have all the answers today.
Start with what you can.
The stories will thank you.

Rebecca Hong ♡

Rebecca Hong
Co-Founder & CEO, Curiyo.io



Thank you for taking the time to protect what matters most.
We're here to help you every step of the way.

Learn more about Curiyo.io and how we can help your family preserve what matters for generations to come.

Objects hold memories.
We help you keep them.

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