

How to add a Legacy Contact for your Apple Account

A Legacy Contact is someone you choose to have access to the data in your Apple Account after your death.

Your Legacy Contact can be anyone you choose, and you can designate more than one Legacy Contact. They don't even need an Apple Account or an Apple device.

To file an access request **after** you pass away, they'll just need:

- The access key that you generate when you choose them as your contact
- A copy of your death certificate

Your Legacy Contact has access to your data for a limited time — three years from when the first legacy account request is approved — after which the account is permanently deleted. Please note that if you have more than one Legacy Contact, any one of them can individually make decisions about your account data after your death, including permanently deleting it.

To add a Legacy Contact for your Apple Account, you need:

- An Apple device running iOS 15.2, iPadOS 15.2, or macOS Monterey 12.1 that's signed in to your Apple Account.
- Two-factor authentication turned on for your Apple Account.
- To be over the age of 13. (*This age varies by country and region.*)

You can add one or more Legacy Contacts in Apple Account settings on your iPhone, iPad, or Mac. You'll receive an email confirmation when a Legacy Contact is added or removed for your account.

On your iPhone, or iPad

1. Go to Settings, then tap [your name].
2. Tap Sign-In & Security, then scroll down & tap Legacy Contact.
3. Tap Add Legacy Contact. You might be asked to authenticate with Face ID, Touch ID, or your device passcode.

Share the access key with your Legacy Contact

The access key is extremely important — your Legacy Contact must have both the access key and your death certificate to request access after you pass away. Then they'll need the access key again to set up a legacy contact Apple Account and access your data.

Print and save a copy of their access key with your estate planning documents.

If your Legacy Contact is using a device with iOS 15.2, iPadOS 15.2, or macOS Monterey 12.1 or later, you can notify them via Messages when you add them, and if they accept, they automatically store a copy of the access key in their Apple Account settings. You'll receive a notification if they decline your Legacy Contact request, and you can choose someone else.

If your Legacy Contact is using an Apple device with older software, you can ask them to update to iOS 15.2, iPadOS 15.2, or macOS Monterey 12.1. Then you can use the Send a Message option to allow them to receive and store the access key on their device.

If you add someone who doesn't have an Apple device or can't access Legacy Contact settings on their device, you'll need to give them a physical copy of the access key. You can print a copy of the access key and give it to them or save a copy with your estate planning documents.

Note: If you use Send a Message to share the access key, it's a good idea to confirm that your Legacy Contact received it. However you share the access key, you also want to **print and save a copy of their access key with your estate planning documents.**

For more information visit <https://support.apple.com/en-us/102631>