

CAN A DEAD MAN CALL AND OKAY A CHANGE?

A widow's journey

Rhonda's 56-year-old husband William died from lung cancer in 2010

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Probate court was difficult

Navigating the legalities after a husband dies is a subject that still makes me really angry. Some companies are so difficult I just want to scream.

We had property in two states so I had to probate the will in both states, which had different statues and laws. Hiring a lawyer in two states is idiotic in my opinion, but it had to be done. This took quite a bit of time and money.

**Going to probate court was
one of the most difficult
things I had to do.**

I'll never forget the judge's kindness and patience as I dissolved into tears after he asked a few routine questions. Thankfully, he allowed my sister and my daughter to sit with me.

With this done, the financial and property changes were not very difficult. I had to pay fees for the property, which I still disagree with. The most difficult ones to change were not the ones you would expect, like banking and housing. Vehicles were a little more challenging and had

more fees involved. Most of these accepted a copy of the probated will and a death certificate.

The most difficult ones proved to be the utility and amenity companies, such as phone and cable. The utility company made me put up a deposit so I could have the account in my name although I was already on the account with my husband. Take his name off? Oh no, you have to pay a deposit first.

I had to cancel the cellphone as they would not allow anyone other than my husband to make changes. They even asked him to call and okay it.

I lost my cool and told them that if they could get him on the phone, I wanted to talk to him as well.

The car insurance made me angry. They said my rate would go up because I was single now. They even insinuated that I had checked "married" on the renewal to defraud them.

I think if some people would think about the situation and not just the letter of the law, it would make things better. I'm not asking for them to break the law, just be compassionate. Can a dead man call and okay a change? Think before saying some of these things.