

Locating Life Insurance Policies of a Deceased Loved One

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Brian Seigel, JD, AEP®

Director - Advanced Planning at BUI

After a loved one has passed away, the estate administration process can seem difficult and daunting. The emotional roller coaster experienced by the surviving loved ones during a time of mourning seems like more than enough to deal with. However, the burial and mourning are usually followed by a desperate search for assets. The surviving family must search their deceased loved one's home to find any evidence of what assets exist and where they are housed. Depending on how organized their deceased loved one was, some situations require more exploration than others.

A common asset the surviving family struggles to locate is a life insurance policy. They recall their deceased loved one mentioning a life insurance policy during his or her lifetime, but they don't recall the details and are unable to locate any proof of a policy's existence. In response to this inability of surviving family to locate their deceased loved one's life insurance policies, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) created a Life Insurance Policy Locator service. Through this service, the NAIC assists consumers in locating life insurance policies and annuity contracts of a deceased family member.

Requests to locate a life insurance policy through the NAIC can generally be submitted by executors or legal representatives of a deceased person, or by individuals who believe they are named beneficiaries on the policy. NAIC has an online request form at <https://eapps.naic.org/life-policy-locator/#/welcome>, though very specific information will be required for the request, including general information about the requestor, their relationship to the deceased, and specific information about the deceased individual. A certified death certificate will provide most of the necessary information for the deceased individual. The NAIC does not charge a fee for this service.

After the NAIC receives a request, it will ask participating insurance companies to perform a search of their policy records. If a company locates a policy, it will contact the requester directly if the requester is a policy beneficiary or is otherwise authorized to receive information about the policy. This process can take up to 90 days from the date the request is submitted.

The NAIC locator service does not replace the need to search the deceased person's files and safe deposit boxes for insurance related documents. However, when such documents cannot be located, it provides a nice second option to search the records of the life insurance companies participating in the service.