

The Legacy Reels

Pre-Recording Checklist

Your Guide to Creating a Beautiful Legacy Video

Why This Checklist Matters

Recording your legacy video is one of the most meaningful things you can do for your family. This checklist ensures you're fully prepared to create a video that your loved ones will treasure for generations.

Take your time with this. There's no rush. Review each section, gather what you need, and when you're ready, you'll create something truly special.

✓ Section 1: Preparation (1-2 Days Before)

Review Questions

- Read through all 10 legacy questions
- Choose which questions resonate most with you
- Think about specific stories for each question
- Write down key points you don't want to forget
- Decide if you want to answer them in order or skip around

Gather Inspiration (Optional)

- Find old photos that spark memories
- Look through family albums
- Review mementos or keepsakes
- Talk to family members about shared memories
- Write down stories you want to be sure to include

Mental Preparation

- Understand this doesn't need to be perfect
- Remember your family wants YOUR authentic voice
- Accept that emotion (laughter, tears) is beautiful
- Know you can pause, take breaks, or re-record
- Remind yourself: your story matters

Schedule Your Recording Time

- Choose a time when you're relaxed and energized

- Block out 30-45 minutes (you won't need it all, but don't rush)
 - Pick a time when you won't be interrupted
 - Tell others in your home you'll need quiet time
 - Turn off your phone or put it on "Do Not Disturb"
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✓ Section 2: Technical Setup (30 Minutes Before)

Choose Your Recording Device

- Smartphone** (most people's best option)
 - iPhone 6 or newer works great
 - Android phone from last 5 years works great
 - Built-in camera is excellent quality
- Computer/Laptop** (if you prefer)
 - Built-in webcam works fine
 - External webcam (if you have one)
 - Make sure it's fully charged or plugged in
- Tablet** (also works well)
 - iPad or Android tablet
 - Prop it up securely

Camera Position & Framing

- Position camera at eye level or slightly above
- Distance: 2-3 feet from your face
- Frame from mid-chest up (not too close, not too far)
- Leave a little space above your head
- Center yourself in the frame
- Make sure camera is stable (won't move or fall)

Phone/Tablet Stand Options:

- Stack books to raise to eye level
- Use a phone/tablet stand (if you have one)
- Prop against stable object
- Ask someone to hold it steady

Test Your Audio

- Do a 10-second test recording

- Play it back to hear quality
- Speak at normal volume—you should hear clearly
- No echo? (Move away from bare walls if needed)
- No background noise? (Turn off fans, AC, TV)
- If using computer, check microphone is working

Common Audio Issues:

- Too quiet → Speak up or move closer
- Echo → Add soft items to room (blankets, cushions)
- Background noise → Close windows, turn off appliances

Check Your Lighting

Best Option: Natural Light

- Sit facing a window
- Record during daytime
- Soft, indirect sunlight is perfect
- Avoid harsh direct sunlight on your face

If Recording at Night or No Windows:

- Turn on room lights
- Face the light source
- Avoid single harsh overhead light
- Use lamps if available for softer light

Avoid These:

- Sitting with bright window behind you (you'll be dark)
- Harsh light from only one side
- Recording in a dark room

Test Your Lighting

- Do a test photo or video
- Can you see your face clearly?
- Is the lighting even? (Not one side bright, one dark)
- Adjust position or add light if needed

Choose Your Background

- Simple and uncluttered (nothing distracting)

- Tidy (your family will see it!)
- Plain wall is perfectly fine
- Or: Bookshelf, photos, meaningful items
- Avoid: Busy patterns, unmade beds, clutter

Internet Connection

- Connect to WiFi (required for recording on platform)
- Test that internet is working
- If WiFi is slow, move closer to router
- Close other programs/apps using internet
- Make sure you have enough data/bandwidth

Browser Check (if recording on computer)

- Use Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari
 - Update browser if needed
 - Allow camera and microphone permissions
 - Close unnecessary tabs
 - Test that camera works in browser
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✓ Section 3: Your Space Setup (15 Minutes Before)

Prepare Your Recording Space

- Choose a quiet room
- Close doors
- Close windows (reduce outside noise)
- Turn off TV, radio, music
- Turn off fans or noisy appliances
- Put pets in another room (if needed)
- Silence your phone or put in another room

Seating & Comfort

- Choose a comfortable chair
- Sit up straight (but not stiff)
- Position chair at right distance from camera
- Make sure chair doesn't squeak when you move
- Have water nearby (but off-camera)
- Tissues nearby if you might get emotional
- Have your notes/prompts within reach but off-camera

Dress & Appearance

- Wear what makes you comfortable
- Solid colors work best
- Avoid: Busy patterns, all white, all black
- Avoid: Shirts with logos or writing
- Check your appearance in test video
- Hair neat (doesn't have to be perfect)
- Glasses clean if you wear them

Final Environment Check

- Do one last look at camera frame
 - Everything look good?
 - Lighting still good?
 - Background still tidy?
 - Can you easily see the questions?
 - Is everything within reach?
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✓ Section 4: Mental & Emotional Preparation (5 Minutes Before)

Center Yourself

- Take 3 deep breaths
- Remind yourself there's no "perfect"
- Remember: your family loves YOU, not a performance
- Think about who you're recording this for
- Connect with why this matters

Review Questions One More Time

- Read through the questions
- Remind yourself of stories you want to tell
- Know you can pause anytime to think
- Remember you can re-record if needed
- Decide: will you answer in order or jump around?

Set Your Intention

- This is a gift of love to your family
- Future generations will treasure your voice
- Be yourself—that's who they want to see

Perfection doesn't matter; authenticity does

Have fun with this!

✓ Section 5: During Recording

Getting Started

- Log into The Legacy Reels
- Click "Record Video"
- Allow camera and microphone permissions
- See yourself on screen?
- Test recording 5 seconds, then stop
- Play back test—looks and sounds good?
- If yes, you're ready to begin!

While Recording

- Look at the camera lens (not the screen)
- Speak naturally, like talking to a friend
- Take your time—don't rush
- Pause to think when you need to
- It's okay to say "um" or pause
- Show emotion—laugh, cry, smile
- Use hand gestures if it feels natural

The Questions

- Each question will appear on screen
- Read it, think for a moment, then answer
- Tell specific stories, not just general facts
- Include details: what you saw, heard, felt
- Explain why moments mattered
- Don't worry if you go off-topic
- Your personality is what makes it special

If You Make a Mistake

- Pause, take a breath, continue
- Or say "Let me say that again" and continue
- Or stop recording and start that section over
- Or finish and re-record the whole thing
- Remember: "mistakes" make you human and real

Taking Breaks

- You can pause recording anytime
 - Take a breath, sip water, collect thoughts
 - Resume when ready
 - No one will see the pause
 - Take as many breaks as you need
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✓ Section 6: After Recording

Review Your Video

- Watch it back (at least the first minute)
- Can you see and hear yourself clearly?
- Does it capture you authentically?
- Are you happy with it?

Decide: Keep or Re-Record?

Keep it if:

- You can see and hear yourself clearly
- It captures your personality and stories
- You feel good about it
- Your family will treasure it (they will!)

Re-record if:

- Technical issues (can't see or hear well)
- You want to add important stories you forgot
- You feel you can do better

Remember: Your first authentic attempt is often the best! Don't re-record 10 times seeking perfection. Your family wants to see and hear YOU, not a polished performance.

Publishing Your Video

- Add a title (optional): "My Legacy Story" or "[Your Name]'s Legacy"
- Choose privacy settings:
 - Public (anyone with link can view)
 - Family Only (only invited family members)
 - Private (only you can see)
- Review and publish

- Celebrate! You did it!
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✓ Section 7: After You're Done

Share Your Legacy

- Invite family members to view
- Share your profile link
- Tell them what you created
- Encourage them to create their own

Consider Premium Features

- Want to record more videos? (Premium: unlimited)
- Want to build a family tree? (Premium feature)
- Want to create time vault messages? (Premium feature)
- See pricing at thelegacyreels.com/pricing

Future Videos (Premium)

- Different life periods (childhood, career, etc.)
 - Specific topics (favorite recipes, life advice)
 - Messages for specific family members
 - Updates as new memories or thoughts arise
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Common Questions

Q: How long should my video be? A: Free users get one 5-10 minute video. That's perfect for answering the 10 core questions. Premium users can record unlimited length and quantity.

Q: What if I cry? A: That's beautiful! Emotion makes your story real and helps future generations connect with you. Don't edit out the tears.

Q: What if I don't like how I look or sound on camera? A: Almost everyone feels this way! But your family loves you and wants to see and hear YOU. They'll treasure your voice and face, exactly as you are.

Q: Can I record in multiple sessions? A: Yes! Start your video, save it, and come back to finish later. Take your time.

Q: What if I mess up? A: Just keep going or pause and restart that section. Imperfections make you human.

Q: Should I memorize what I'll say? A: No! Speak naturally and spontaneously. Your authentic voice is what matters.

Q: What if I forget to mention something? A: Premium users can record unlimited videos. Or just mention it

in conversation with family later.

Q: Is it okay to read from notes? A: Yes, but try to mostly look at the camera. Glancing at notes occasionally is fine.

Final Reminders

You're Ready When...

- ✓ You've reviewed the questions
- ✓ You have 30 quiet minutes
- ✓ Your space is set up
- ✓ You've tested camera and audio
- ✓ You feel calm and ready

This Matters Because...

- Your children and grandchildren will treasure hearing your voice
- Future generations will know who you were
- Your wisdom and stories won't be lost
- You're giving your family a priceless gift
- Your legacy will live on

Don't Wait

- Time is precious
 - Tomorrow isn't guaranteed
 - Your family deserves this gift
 - You deserve to be remembered
 - Your story matters NOW
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Quick Reference: Recording Day

15 Minutes Before:

1. Set up camera position and test frame
2. Test lighting
3. Test audio

4. Make space quiet
5. Review questions

5 Minutes Before:

1. Do final tech test (record 10 seconds, play back)
2. Take 3 deep breaths
3. Remember: be yourself
4. Ready!

During Recording:

1. Look at camera
2. Speak naturally
3. Tell stories
4. Show emotion
5. Take your time

After Recording:

1. Watch it back
 2. Decide: keep or re-record?
 3. Publish
 4. Share with family
 5. Celebrate!
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Need Help?

Technical Support: support@thelegacyreels.com

Watch Tutorial Video: thelegacyreels.com/resources

Have Questions? Check our FAQ: thelegacyreels.com/faq

You've Got This!

Thousands of people have successfully recorded their legacy videos using this checklist. Most say it was easier than they expected and one of the most meaningful things they've ever done.

Your family is waiting to hear your story.

Your voice matters.

Your legacy matters.

Start recording today.

"Everyone wants to be remembered. Your story deserves to be told."

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