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By Nepal Digest - October 15, 2026 - Nepal

A family death can leave relatives trying to do two difficult things at once: grieve and understand an administrative system they rarely use. When people, property and documents sit in different countries, even establishing who should contact which office can become complicated.

The most helpful preparation is not a promise that the process will be simple. It is an organised record of assets, identities and responsibilities, together with qualified advice about the law applying to each part of the estate.

One family can face more than one legal process

A home in Nepal, an overseas bank account and a pension may not be handled by one institution or one set of procedures. Do not assume that a document accepted for one asset automatically governs every other asset.

Nepal's National Civil Code contains provisions on succession, including the opening of succession on death and rules concerning heirs. Those provisions should not be compressed into a social-media claim that one particular relative always inherits everything. The legal assessment depends on the relevant facts and applicable law.

Where another country is involved, obtain advice addressing that jurisdiction as well. A professional should explain which assets and questions their advice covers and where another specialist is needed.

Make an inventory that can be checked

Start with the existence and location of assets and obligations. Record property details, financial institutions, relevant ownership documents, loans, insurance and the professional contacts who may hold records. Distinguish an account someone remembers from an account supported by a statement.

Identify jointly held assets accurately. A relative's contribution towards a purchase, a name on an account and registered legal ownership may raise different questions. The file should preserve those facts rather than resolve a dispute through assumption.

Include liabilities. A family should not plan distribution around an asset list that ignores borrowing or other obligations needing legal assessment.

Identity records are part of the chain

People may use different spellings, surnames or dates across old and new documents. Assemble the relevant birth, marriage, death, citizenship and relationship records and ask which discrepancies need explanation.

A scan can help an adviser understand the case without necessarily being sufficient for an official submission. Ask which originals, certified copies, translations or attestations are required and who is authorised to provide them.

Do not send the whole family's identity file to several unofficial intermediaries in the hope that someone will know what to do. Use verified contacts, share the information needed for the defined task and retain a record of what was supplied.

Residence abroad does not define legal authority

The relative best placed to visit an office may not automatically have authority to act for everyone. Agree who will coordinate information and obtain the legal advice needed for any formal representation.

If a power of attorney is proposed, establish who gives it, for what action and through which process. The Nepal Embassy in Washington's guidance illustrates how procedures differ between Nepali citizens and US citizens of Nepali origin. A route described there should not be copied uncritically into another country's situation.

Ask the receiving authority in Nepal whether the proposed document will be accepted before paying for a chain of certification. A stamp at one stage is not proof that every later requirement has been met.

Do not assume an overseas will settles Nepal property

A document can be valid for one purpose or jurisdiction without answering every question elsewhere. Before relying on an overseas will, nomination or estate-planning instrument, obtain advice on its effect for the specific Nepal-based asset and the applicable succession rules.

Likewise, do not assume a family agreement alone completes a formal transfer. Keep private understandings separate from the registration and institutional steps required to give them effect.

The practical aim is to identify disagreements early, while records can still be obtained and the people involved can explain their intentions. Avoid promising a particular distribution before the legal position has been checked.

Give the coordinator a limited, visible job

A family coordinator can maintain a document index, organise professional enquiries and share progress. That role need not mean controlling all funds or deciding everyone's rights.

Use a shared progress record that identifies the office or professional responsible for the next action. Keep receipts, submission copies and written answers together. Record a disagreement as unresolved rather than allowing one person's summary to become the family's assumed decision.

Where relatives disagree about money or property, independent advice may protect relationships better than asking one family member to carry incompatible expectations.

Prepare before urgency decides the process

Families can organise records without turning every conversation into a discussion of death. Start with where documents are kept, who knows the professional contacts and how authorised people could locate the file in an emergency.

Keep passwords and authentication material secure. An asset inventory can identify a bank without exposing the credentials used to access it. Ask the institution about its official process when an account holder dies rather than sharing or using credentials as a substitute.

These questions also belong in the broader plan for managing property while living overseas. Good records make both everyday management and an eventual succession process more understandable.

Cross-border inheritance needs a clear account of the facts and advice that follows the assets. The best family preparation makes the process easier to navigate without pretending that grief, trust or a familiar surname replaces legal authority.