

# The Order of Operations

*The single sequence that protects your money: secure, evaluate, sell, donate, clear — and why clearance is always last.*

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If you remember nothing else, remember the order. Doing things out of order is where value disappears.

- 1 SECURE — cash, jewelry, coins, firearms, documents, medications. First, before anything.
- 2 CONFIRM AUTHORITY — who can make decisions. No commitments until it's clear.
- 3 CLAIM KEEPS — family takes named items, with deadlines, out before the sale.
- 4 EVALUATE — high-value, low-friction categories get a free expert look.
- 5 SELL — auction, estate sale, specialty buyers, online.
- 6 DONATE — usable items, with a receipt. Schedule pickup before clearance.
- 7 CLEAR — last. Once the truck is loaded, it's gone.

*Clearance is Step 7, not Step 1. Not a 'let's clear it and see what we find' step.*