

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What Is Unclaimed Property?**

Unclaimed property is usually money, and does not pertain to real estate of any kind, such as land or homes. Property is considered unclaimed or abandoned if someone—other than the owner—holds the property and has not had any contact with the owner, usually for three years.

Common sources of unclaimed property are:

- Inactive savings and checking accounts
- Uncashed checks, such as payroll, refunds or life insurance proceeds
- Forgotten telephone or utility deposits

### **Why Does The State Have To Get Involved?**

Connecticut law requires the holders of unclaimed property, such as banks, credit unions, insurance companies, utilities and businesses, to report and remit those assets annually to the Office of the Treasurer, which safeguards the property until the rightful owner comes forward and claims it. The owners or heirs have a single source – the State of Connecticut -- where they can locate unclaimed funds.

### **Is There A Fee For This Service?**

No, it is absolutely free! You do not need to hire someone to locate your unclaimed assets.

### **Is There A Time Limit For Making A Claim?**

No, there is no time limit for claiming your money. The property can be claimed forever by the owners or their heirs.

### **How Do I Find Out If I Have Unclaimed Property?**

You may look for your name on this web page where we are presenting a link to approximately 53,000 names of individuals, businesses and organizations who have unclaimed property, go online at the State Treasury's website at [www.CTBigList.com](http://www.CTBigList.com), or call our toll-free number, 1-800-833-7318, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### **How Do I File A Claim For Unclaimed Property?**

Claim forms can be downloaded at the State Treasury's website, [www.CTBigList.com](http://www.CTBigList.com), anytime—seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Those without Internet access should call our toll-free number, 1-800-833-7318, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only owners of the property or their legal heirs may file a claim.

### **What Documents Will I Need To Verify That I Am The Rightful Owner?**

Typically, all claims require copies of the following:

- Photo identification
- Social Security number
- Proof of address or previous address
- Documents that verify proof of ownership, such as a tax return or utility bill

Additional information may be needed, depending on the claim

### **How Do I Ensure My Money Doesn't Become Unclaimed Property?**

Keep accurate financial records—including a current record of all bank accounts, insurance policies and utility deposits—in a safe and secure location. Correspond with all financial institutions and other account holders at least once every year. Fill out and respond to requests for information sent to you by the institution. Prepare a checklist of these items in order to notify all concerned parties if you change your address. Be sure to cash all checks for dividends, wages and insurance settlements. If you stop receiving dividends, contact the company immediately. Notify a family member or trusted advisor of the location of your records.

For additional frequently asked questions, click [here](#).