



Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Claiming Your Unclaimed Property

As the holidays approach, some of us might be looking for a little extra money to complete some of our Christmas shopping. I would like to let you know how you might be able to find money that is rightfully yours. By law, the State Treasurer's office is required to collect and maintain property that is unclaimed by Missouri citizens. These funds are turned in by financial institutions, businesses, government agencies, and other organizations. The state holds more than \$400 million in unclaimed assets that belong to Missourians like you, and I want to let you know how to claim them.

It might be surprising, but one in every 10 Missourians have assets being held by the Unclaimed Property Division. Here's how it works. Suppose you switched banks and left some money in a savings account or valuables in a safety deposit box. Or, perhaps you were owed some money by an insurance company or even by the government, but they can't find you. After five years, these funds are turned over to the Treasurer's office where they are held until the rightful owner can claim them. Similarly, if you have

property that you own but you've not claimed, it will be sold at auction and the proceeds will be kept in an account under your name.

Unclaimed property could be in the form of funds from dormant checking or savings accounts, un-cashed money orders, cashiers checks, mineral royalty payments, safe deposit box contents, unused gift certificates, unclaimed insurance benefits, lost cash dividends, stocks, found utility deposits, unclaimed security deposits, and court deposits. The Unclaimed Property Division also holds the contents of abandoned safe deposit boxes for at least one year upon receipt. The contents of these boxes have included silver bars, false teeth, diamond rings, cremated remains, letters signed by Abraham Lincoln, and many other treasures.

Maybe you don't remember losing any property, and you're pretty sure you don't have any funds remaining in old bank accounts. You still might be owed some money by the state if you are the legal heir of someone who has unclaimed property. Even if you do not see your name or a family member's name on the site, but you do see someone you know, please take time to tell them. You could be the bearer of good news.



One important aspect of the Unclaimed Property Division is that the assets being held *never* become property of the state. No matter how long these funds are in possession of the state of Missouri, the rightful owner always has the opportunity to claim them. The fastest and most efficient way to check to see if you have unclaimed property is to visit

www.showmemoney.com. If you don't have

access to the Internet, simply write to the state treasurer's office's Unclaimed Property Division, P.O. Box 1004, Jefferson City, MO 65102, with a list of owners' names, addresses, and previous addresses (if known). They will let you know if the names are associated with any unclaimed property in the custody of the state. If you find that you have unclaimed property, you will need to prove your own identity or the fact that you are an heir to the original owner of the property. You will receive a response to your claim within 90 days.

The Unclaimed Property Division is in existence to help you find property that belongs to you, and I encourage you to utilize this asset. Missourians have discovered thousands of dollars and family heirlooms by simply making a quick inquiry. The state is working hard to make sure that you are reunited with the property that is rightfully yours.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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