

INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

This brochure is intended to help business owners understand how the unclaimed property law may apply to their business.

What is unclaimed property?

Unclaimed property consists of money and other assets that are considered lost or abandoned when an owner can't be located after a certain amount of time has passed. It includes, but isn't limited to, checking accounts, certificates of deposit, customer deposits and overpayments, paid-up life insurance policies, unpaid wages and commissions, uncashed checks, death benefits, dividends, insurance, money orders, refunds, savings accounts, stocks, and contents of safe-deposit boxes.

Unclaimed property doesn't include real estate, boats, or cars. However, some items such as jewelry, gems, coins, and stamps are reported as unclaimed property.

Most property is considered abandoned if there's been no owner-initiated activity for five years. Wages and utility deposits become unclaimed after only one year.

What does unclaimed property have to do with my business?

If you've ever had customers in Idaho or employees who are Idaho residents, you may be required to report unclaimed property to the state of Idaho. Idaho law requires you to try to locate owners of any unclaimed property you hold with a value greater than \$50. You must send owners a written notice that says their property may be turned over to the state due to inactivity.

What must I do with unclaimed property?

If you can't locate an owner within a specified "holding period," you must file a report and turn the property over to the state for safekeeping.

The holding period is usually one year or five years, depending on the type of property being held. The reporting period is July 1 through June 30. You must report unclaimed property by November 1 of each year.

How do I report unclaimed property?

Complete an unclaimed property report form and return it, along with all property, to the Idaho State Tax Commission's Unclaimed Property Program.

We usually mail report forms to holders in July. If you don't receive a report form and have property to report, contact us to get a form.

What records do I have to keep and for how long?

You must keep records of the unclaimed property you reported, including documents showing your efforts to locate owners, for seven years after reporting the property to the state.

What does the state do with the unclaimed property I report?

The Unclaimed Property staff tries to locate the rightful owners or heirs by providing a list of names on our Web site.

Is my business eligible to claim unclaimed property?

If you've been doing business in Idaho with an individual or company, we may be holding property for you. If you'd like to find out if your business is on the list of unclaimed property owners, visit our Web site, call us, or stop by any Tax Commission office.

How do I learn more about unclaimed property?

Go to our Web site at tax.idaho.gov and click on the link to Unclaimed Property.

For more information, contact:

- Idaho State Tax Commission: In the Boise area, 334-7660; Toll free, (800) 972-7660
- Hearing impaired: TDD (800) 377-3529
- tax.idaho.gov

This information was prepared by the Idaho State Tax Commission. It does not provide comprehensive explanations of Idaho tax laws or rules. Specific questions should be addressed to the Tax Commission or an attorney.