

# Glossary of Common Unclaimed Property Terms

**Abandoned (Unclaimed) Property:** Tangible or intangible property which remains unclaimed by its rightful owner after a significant period of time.

**Aggregate Property:** An intangible property with a dollar amount specified by states as an amount under which holders are not required to include the name and last known address of the owner with the report. Aggregate property may be sent to the state as a lump sum. Aggregate property in North Dakota is considered to be any amounts less than \$50.

**Banking Organization:** A bank, trust company, savings bank, industrial bank, land bank, safe deposit company, private banker, or any organization defined by law as a bank or banking organization.

**Business Association:** A non-public corporation, joint stock company, investment company, business trust, partnership or association for business purposes of two or more individuals, whether or not for profit, including a banking organization, financial organization, insurance company or utility.

**Claim:** The official form and its associated documentation which initiates the process of returning unclaimed property to its rightful owner or heir.

**Claimant:** Individual submitting a claim for Unclaimed Property.

**Denied Claim:** A claim which has been rejected because the documentation submitted specifically validates ownership of the property by another party.

**Domicile:** The state of incorporation of a corporation or state of organization of a limited liability company and the state of the principal place of business of an unincorporated person.

**Dormancy Period:** The time period set by the state during which an owner of property takes no action in regards to his/her property and after which the property is deemed abandoned. After the dormancy period has passed, the unclaimed property must be remitted to the state.

**Due Diligence:** The final effort by the holder to contact the owner prior to remitting the property to the State.

**Escheat:** The transfer of property from a holder to the State making the State the legal custodian of the property.

**Financial Organization:** A savings and loan association or credit union.

**Heir:** The person legally entitled to the property of a deceased owner.

**Heir Finder:** An individual or business that offers to locate and reunite owners with unclaimed property for a fee.

**Holder:** A person, wherever organized or domiciled, who is in possession of property belonging to another, a trustee, or is indebted to another on an obligation.

**Intangible Property:** Any item of worth that cannot be touched or held. Intangible property includes:

- Moneys, checks, drafts, deposits, interest, dividends, and income
- Credit balances, customer overpayments, security deposits, refunds, credit memos, unpaid wages, unused airline tickets, and unidentified
- Stocks and other intangible ownership interests in business associations
- Moneys deposited to redeem stocks, bonds, coupons, and other securities, or to make distributions
- Amounts due and payable under terms of insurance policies
- Amounts distributable from a trust or custodial fund established under a plan to provide health, welfare, pension, vacation severance, retirement death, stock purchase, profit sharing, employee savings, supplemental unemployment insurance, or similar benefits
- Amounts distributable from a mineral interest in land

**Last Known Address:** The recorded address for an owner of unclaimed property as indicated in the holder's books and records.

**Mineral Proceeds:** All obligations to pay resulting from the production and sale of minerals, including net revenue interest, royalties, overriding royalties, production payments, and joint operating agreements and all obligations for the acquisition and retention of a mineral lease, including bonuses, delay rentals, shut-in royalties and minimum royalties.

**Money Order:** An express money order and a personal money order, on which the remitter is the purchaser. The term does not include a cashier's check, bank money order, or any other instrument sold by a financial organization if the seller has obtained the name and address of the payee.

**Negative report:** An unclaimed property report submitted by the holder to affirm that there is no property to report.

**Owner:** The individual or entity to which the abandoned property belongs.

**Pending Claim:** A claim which has neither been approved or denied in anticipation of receipt of additional documentation to prove ownership.

**Person:** Any individual, business association, government or public subdivision, public corporation or authority, estate, trust, two or more persons having a joint or common interests; or any other legal or commercial entity.

**Property:** Tangible or intangible personal property owned by a person.

**Reciprocity:** The practice in which one state collects unclaimed property and then transfers it to another based on the owner's last known address. This allows holders of incidental property to report to their domiciliary state even if the owner's address is recorded in another state. The property, however, must be reported according to the dormancy periods and other regulations of the required state under priority rules.

**Report:** The list of owners of unclaimed property compiled by the holder and sent to the state along with the remittance of the property's value.

**State:** Any state, district, commonwealth, territory, insular possession, or any other area subject to the legislative authority of the United States.

**Tangible Property:** Property that is physical in form. For example, items stored in a safe box are tangible property.

**Unclaimed (Abandoned) Property:** Tangible or intangible property that is unclaimed by its rightful owner after a significant period of time.

**Utility:** A person who owns or operated for public use any plant, equipment, property, franchise, or license for the transmission of communications or the production, storage, transmission, sale or deliver or furnishing of electricity, water, steam or gas.