



3ID Legal Assistance Office Newsletter Volume 10, January/February 2025

“SOLDIER FIRST, LAWYER ALWAYS”



Welcome back to the latest edition of the 3ID Legal Assistance Newsletter! This edition of the Legal Assistance Newsletter provides basic guidance regarding Unclaimed Property being held by the State.

By CPT Daniel W. Mauldin

What is Unclaimed Property?

In Georgia, there is the Disposition of Unclaimed Properties Act (“Act”). The Act requires banks and other qualifying companies that hold property belonging to someone else to turn that property over to the Georgia Department of Revenue (“Department”) if the entity has lost contact with the rightful owner for a certain period of time. Once the property is turned over to the Department, the Department holds the property as a custodian. This property is called **Unclaimed Property**.

A common form of unclaimed property that is turned over to the Department are bank accounts. These bank accounts are colloquially called **dormant accounts**. A bank account can become dormant if the account owner makes no transactions with the account, the account owner has made no communication with the bank, or the bank has attempted and cannot make contact with the account owner **for a five-year period**.

Can You Recover Unclaimed Property?

Yes, you can reclaim your unclaimed property, to include dormant bank accounts, **FREE OF CHARGE!** The following link takes you to the Department’s website to search for your unclaimed property: <https://dor.georgia.gov/unclaimed-property-program/how-do-i-search-unclaimed-property>. You can search for unclaimed property in the state of Georgia using your Last and First Name. If you find property that you believe is yours, you can create an account and file a claim with the Department. The process can take anywhere from 30 to 90 days once a claim is submitted. A claim will require you to prove your identity to the Department.

If you know that you have unclaimed property, but cannot find it in Georgia, you can search other state’s unclaimed property resources. Additionally, if you are specifically looking for lost money or unclaimed funds from a bank you cannot contact anymore, you can search the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s (“FDIC”) website for the bank’s history to find in which state the money is held. The website is <https://banks.data.fdic.gov/bankfind-suite/bankfind>.

Beware of Predatory Business Practices!

Beware, there are businesses out there that search for unclaimed property and solicit the rightful owners to hire them to recover the property. These businesses will sometimes charge as much as 30% of the value of the unclaimed property as their service fee. You do **NOT** need to hire them. You can file your own claim for **FREE**.

If you have inquiries or would like to schedule an appointment with one of our attorneys, please fill out a request form on our website or stop by one of our office locations.

Disclaimer: These materials have been prepared for general informational purposes only and are not legal advice. This information is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship, and receipt of it does not constitute an attorney-client relationship. Reference to particular credit services does not imply DoD endorsement.

Legal Assistance Team

CPT Kaylyn A. Sands
Chief, Legal Assistance

LEGAL ASSISTANCE ATTORNEYS

Marguerite M. Winnier
Lindsey A. West
CPT Daniel W. Mauldin

LEGAL ASSISTANCE PARALEGALS

Heather Moores
SPC Jasmine Leal

SPECIAL VICTIMS’ COUNSEL

CPT Taylor K. Cox
CPT Robert E. Schaaf
1LT Katie Onyundo

SPECIAL VICTIMS’ COUNSEL

PARALEGAL
SSG David Perez

LOCATIONS

Main Office Fort Stewart

944 William H. Wilson Ave.
BLDG 620 Suite 119
Fort Stewart, GA 31314
571-801-5149
571-801-5113

HOURS OF OPERATION

M-W 0900-1600
TH-1300-1600
FR-0900-1500

HAAF Office

638 Horace Emmet Wilson Blvd.
BLDG 1211
Hunter Army Airfield, GA 31409

HOURS OF OPERATION

T 0930-1130 & 1300-1600
W 1430-1600

Visit us on the web:

