



OFFICE OF  
STATE TREASURER  
DENISE L. NAPPIER

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# NEWS

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## STATE TREASURY KICKS OFF "NAME IT AND CLAIM IT" CAMPAIGN TO RETURN UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

*Visitors to Big E can use computers to find out if State is holding their money*

(Hartford) – Visitors to the Big E will be able to find out if the State of Connecticut is holding any of their money – maybe thousands of dollars -- as the State Treasurer's Office kicks off its "Name it and Claim it" outreach campaign designed to return unclaimed funds to rightful owners.

"The 'Name It and Claim It' campaign has one goal – to give back the cash and property we hold in our Unclaimed Property Division to its rightful owners," said State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier.

### A Sampler of Unclaimed Funds...

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PERSON'S HOMETOWN</u>
\$187,428.13	Stamford
\$109,215.75	Sherman
\$ 90,342.35	Clinton
\$ 51,796.58	Trumbull
\$ 46,132.65	Brookfield
\$ 36,947.12	Terryville
\$ 33,750.00	Stafford Springs
\$ 22,175.34	Essex
\$ 14,072.99	Southbury
\$ 13,783.80	New Haven

"We've made reclaiming long-lost assets almost as easy as searching under sofa cushions – and it could be much more rewarding," Nappier said. "We are the custodians of these assets, but only temporarily – until the owner comes forward."

With as little information as a name, a database search can match owners with lost property within seconds. If a visitor's name matches a name on the list, a claim form can be generated to initiate the process of claiming the funds.

The Unclaimed Property Division returned a record \$8.9 million to owners and paid nearly 7,000 claims in fiscal year 1998-99, which ended June 30. The Division also reported a new record for voluntary reporting of unclaimed property to the state from businesses and corporations, approximately \$33 million. The Office is holding more than \$244 million in abandoned funds that belong to 1.4 million owners.

Unclaimed property consists of inactive savings or checking accounts, uncashed checks, insurance proceeds payments or refunds, utility deposits, money orders, stock dividends, bonds and interest payments, money from courts and other governmental

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agencies. If checks go uncashed or there has been no activity in an account for three to five years, depending on the type of property, those funds are considered unclaimed. Before funds are transferred to the State, banks and companies attempt to notify the owners by mail. State law provides for unclaimed property to be held by the State to protect an individuals' funds, centralize search efforts to locate lost property and prevent a windfall to the company or institution that initially held the funds.

Two computers, directly linked to the State Treasury's 1.4 million name database, will be operated by staff members of the Unclaimed Property Division during the first week of the Big E, between September 17 and 24. As part of the outreach initiative, the Division also plans to set up computer terminals at the Connecticut Agricultural and Food Expo at the State Armory in Hartford on October 23 and 24, at the Middletown Business Expo on November 10 and 11, and numerous senior citizen fairs and other events around the state during the fall.

In addition, the Treasurer's Office has begun a major upgrade of the Division's website and has published a new brochure that explains the unclaimed property claim process.



**Name it**  
— and —  
**Claim it!**

*Let us show you  
how to claim **your** money!*

Individuals who aren't planning to visit the Big E may also contact representatives of the Treasurer's Office at 1-800-833-7318 or go to the Treasurer's website at [www.state.ct.us/ott](http://www.state.ct.us/ott). The website includes the names of individuals whose cash or property is being held by the Division and information on how to file claims. As part of the website upgrade, additional names will be added later this fall.

"If you're planning to visit the Big E, please stop by our booth and find out if we're holding some of your money," said Assistant Treasurer Madelyn Colòn, who heads the Unclaimed Property Division. "We'd like to help reunite you with any cash or property that is rightfully yours. Let us show you how to claim your money!"

Treasurer Nappier will be attending the Big E during Connecticut Day ceremonies on Wednesday, September 22. The Unclaimed Property Division booth will be located in the Connecticut Building.