



**OFFICE OF
STATE TREASURER
DENISE L. NAPIER**

NEWS

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NAPIER REMINDS CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS THAT SEARCHES FOR UNCLAIMED ASSETS AT TREASURER'S OFFICE ARE FREE

"There's never any reason to pay for something you can get for free," Connecticut Treasurer Denise L. Napier reminded Connecticut residents, responding to questions raised about companies soliciting state residents to retrieve their unclaimed property for a fee.

Consumers have contacted the State Treasurer's office regarding postcards and other communication from companies offering to send instructions and unclaimed money documentation for a fee. The mailings often tell recipients that some of the unclaimed money held by the state could belong to them.

**CONSUMER
ADVISORY**

While that may be true, the Connecticut State Treasurer's Office works daily to connect Connecticut residents with their money, and the state's outreach program is a free public service.

Representatives in the Unclaimed Property Division of the Treasurer's Office will be happy to check for any unclaimed property that people may be entitled to such as unclaimed wages, dormant bank accounts, safety deposit box contents, insurance benefits, stocks and dividends, royalties, and utility deposits. A list of more than 500,000 individuals for whom unclaimed assets are being held can also be viewed on the Treasury's internet site, at www.nameitandclaimit.org.

"Perhaps the Connecticut State Treasury can reunite you with your unclaimed financial assets this year," said State Treasurer Denise L. Napier. "You could pay a fee, or find out for free. My advice is that before you send your hard earned money to strangers, contact my office first, either by phone or on the internet."

During the past two years, the Treasurer's Office has returned more than \$18 million dollars to rightful owners, or their heirs, setting all-time state records for the amount of money returned in each of the two consecutive years. A new, intensified outreach program began last fall.

More...

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"We have intensified our outreach efforts beyond anything ever attempted in the history of the Treasury," said Assistant Treasurer Madelyn Colón, who heads the Unclaimed Property Division. "Among other things, we established a new web site, tripled the size of our on-line database to 500,000 names and instituted a toll-free phone line for Spanish language inquiries, in addition to publishing our bi-annual list of new names. We were delighted with the response these efforts generated: more than 94,000 people have inquired about unclaimed property via telephone, letter or e-mail via our web site in the past four months."

Colón noted that the overwhelming response to the intensified outreach campaign initially caused some delays last fall, but all inquiries received have now been answered and at least 58,800 of them appear to be valid claims. Verification materials have been sent to all the potential claimants, and in excess of 15,300 have been returned for processing to date.

The Unclaimed Property toll-free number is (800) 833-7318. For Spanish language assistance, call (800) 618-3404. The web address is nameitandclaimit.org. Representatives of the unclaimed property division will also be at the Connecticut Home Show at the Hartford Civic Center March 16-18 and the Fairfield County Home Show at Wilton High School March 31 – April 1.