FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does the claim process work?

SCO staff carefully review each claim. If the documentation you provide is not adequate to prove your legal entitlement to the property, SCO will contact you and explain why. SCO is required by law to consider all claims within 180 days from the date SCO receives a complete claim package.

Is there a time limit for claiming my property from SCO?

No. There is no time limit to file a claim.

What is a property identification number?

SCO assigns a unique number to each unclaimed property account. Please include this number in all inquiries about your claim.

How will I know if SCO received my claim?

SCO will mail a claim receipt letter to you after receiving your claim. You can also visit **claimit.ca.gov** and click on "Claim Status Search."

How long will it take for my claim to be processed?

After SCO receives all required documentation, simple cash claims may be processed within 30 to 60 days. More complex claims involving high-dollar cash properties, securities, or claims filed by heirs are generally processed within 180 days.
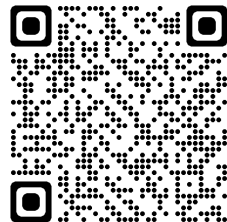
Will I be paid interest on the property for the time SCO protected the property?

No. The law does not allow interest to be paid on property held by the State of California.

What if I contact a holder to claim my property before it is turned over to SCO and the holder is not responsive?

If the holder does not respond to your requests, please contact SCO for assistance at (800) 992-4647.

More information on Unclaimed Property:

Unclaimed Property Program

MALIA M. COHEN

California State Controller

BACKGROUND

Since 1959, California's Unclaimed Property Law has required holders (such as financial institutions, corporations, businesses, and insurance companies) to report and submit unclaimed property (such as bank accounts, stocks, bonds, uncashed checks, and safe deposit box contents) to the State Controller's Office (SCO) when there has been no activity on an account for three years.

The law was enacted to prevent holders from assuming ownership of property when contact with the original owner has been lost. The law also allows the state government to return property, or money from the sale of the property, to its rightful owner. SCO provides a single source to check for unclaimed property sent to the State of California by holders from around the nation.

HOW DOES THE STATE CONTROLLER RECEIVE PROPERTY?

A holder must send a notice to the last known address of the property owner. If the holder receives no response to the notice, the holder reports information about the owner's property to SCO.

SCO will then notify the property owner that the holder will send the property to SCO if the owner does not contact the holder by a certain date. SCO will share information on how to contact the holder to claim the property. The notice is sent to the owner's last known address reported by the holder or, if available, to an updated address provided by the California Franchise Tax Board. SCO urges owners to contact holders in response to this notice.

If the property is not claimed by the owner, the holder will turn over the property to SCO, where the owner or heirs can claim it.

DO YOU HAVE PROPERTY TO CLAIM?

It is easy to find out if SCO is safeguarding property in your name. Search the database at **claimit.ca.gov**.

After property is sent to SCO, if you are the property owner or heir you may directly claim your property free of charge. If an heir finder, investigator, or asset locator represents you instead, that person may charge you a fee of up to 10 percent of the property's value.

If you find property that belongs to you in the SCO database, complete the online form to claim your property electronically or call (800) 992-4647 for assistance.

Claim instructions and a list of documents required to validate your claim are at **claimit.ca.gov**.

You also can print and mail a claim form to:

State Controller's Office
Unclaimed Property Division
P.O. Box 942850
Sacramento, CA 94250-5873

My property identification numbers:

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