

The website for the Lt. Governor's office only lists unclaimed property after 2006. How can I obtain information from earlier years?

To obtain unclaimed property information for earlier years, contact the Division of Banking, Insurance and Financial Regulation. What is the process for filing a claim? To claim property electronically, property owners will be required to fill out a secure form online (including name, social security number, birthdate, and address). Depending on the complexity of your claim, additional supporting documents may be required to verify proof of ownership or authority to file a claim, e.g., power of attorney, court documents, etc. Do note that persons seeking to file unclaimed property claim(s) can do so at any time. There is no statute of limitation to file a valid claim.

If I am not the original owner, or if the owner is deceased, how do I prove the claim?

First, you must show that the account belonged to the original owner (minimum proof of claim). Second, you must prove that you are the rightful recipient of the funds, and you are legally entitled to claim these funds for the owner, for example if the owner is incapacitated or deceased. If the owner is incapacitated, the Division will require documentation such as a Durable Power of Attorney or court documents which shows guardianship or custodial relationship.

If the original owner is deceased, the Division will require that you contact the Probate Court in the State where the owner lived at the time of death. You must obtain documentation from the Probate Court that grants you the right to obtain these funds.

What are some examples of minimum proof of claim?

First, always provide a clear copy of your photo I.D. This may include a driver's license, passport, voter registration or other state-issued ID. The ID must be valid (unexpired) and include a signature.

For More Information:

Please contact the Division of Banking, Insurance and Financial Regulation on

St. Croix

1131 King Street, Suite 101, 3rd Floor
Christiansted, V.I. 00820

Tel: (340) 773-6459

Fax: (340) 719-3801

or

St. Thomas

5049 Kongens Gade
St. Thomas, V.I. 00802

Tel: (340) 774-7166

Fax: (340) 774-9458

Business Hours

8:00am to 5:00pm

Monday to Friday

Visit our website regularly to learn about
Banking, Insurance and Financial
Regulation services in the Territory.

Website: ltg.gov.vi

Scan QR Code with your phone's camera.
Once a link appears, click on link to the
Search Database



Frequently Asked Questions About



U.S. Virgin Islands Unclaimed Property



United States Virgin Islands
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Division of Banking, Insurance
and Financial Regulation

The Honorable Tregenza A. Roach, esq.
Lieutenant Governor
Administrator of Unclaimed Property

What is unclaimed property?

Unclaimed property consists of money or other financial assets that are considered lost or abandoned when an owner cannot be located after a specified period of time. This includes checking and savings accounts, certificates of deposit accounts, customer deposits and over payments, payroll (unpaid wages), stocks and bonds, insurance proceeds, death benefits, money orders, gift certificates and security deposits.

How does property become unclaimed?

How does property become unclaimed? Title 28, Chapter 29 of the Virgin Islands Code, the Virgin Islands Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, states that accounts become unclaimed when, over a specified period of time, there has been no activity, and the holder of the funds cannot locate the owner. The time frame varies depending on the property but in most cases, it is three to five years. One exception is payroll checks, which are only held for one year. The funds are then turned over to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Division of Banking, Insurance and Financial Regulation, which acts as custodian of the funds until they can be returned to the rightful owner.

Does unclaimed property include real estate?

Unclaimed property does not include real estate.

Who holds unclaimed property?

“Holder” means a person obligated to hold for the account of, or deliver or pay to, the owner property that is subject to this chapter. A holder can be a private business enterprise, public corporation, financial institution, non-profit organization and all other entities that maintain account balances, write checks, or hold funds in escrow for another person or persons.

Who is the administrator?

The “Administrator” is the Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Is there a deadline for making a claim?

No, the funds are held until the rightful owner claims them.

Are there any fees for filing a claim?

No. The Division does not charge a fee for claim filing or processing.

How will I know where my unclaimed funds came from?

You can visit the online database or contact the Division. The listing published in the newspaper and on our website, does not include the name of the original holder.

How do I establish ownership?

The Division does not pay a claim on the basis of name alone. Proof may be as simple as a document that shows your name and Social Security number, or proves that you lived at the reported address on file with the Division. After a completed claim form, the Division will notify you if additional documentation is required. If you are not the original owner, you must prove that the account belonged to the original owner; then you must prove you are entitled to the original owner’s money.

Can a dormancy charge be imposed on the owner of the abandoned account?

A holder may deduct from property presumed abandoned a charge only if there is a valid and enforceable written contract between holder and owner.

Where does unclaimed property go?

Unclaimed property is deposited in the General Fund of the Treasury of the Virgin Islands. To expedite the claim process, at least \$100,000 is held in a separate trust fund by the administrator to pay claims.

When must a holder report abandoned property?

The report must be filed before November 1 of each year for all financial institutions except life insurance companies, which are required to be filed before May 1 of each year.

If I have unclaimed property, how do I claim it?

Claimants can access the online database through the Claims Website by visiting <https://usviclaims.unclaimedproperty.com>. Claimants will no longer need to mail in or visit the office to submit claim forms. Persons searching for unclaimed property can now visit the Virgin Islands Unclaimed Property Claims Website to search for and submit any valid claim.

If you do not have access to a computer or you are unable to print the claim form, the Division has public Kiosks in both districts that can be utilized by the public to complete the claim.

Why does the Virgin Islands have unclaimed property laws?

This law exists to:

- protect the property rights of the absentee owner and to locate the owner/heirs;
- provide a service to the citizens of the Virgin Islands by offering centralized repository for unclaimed property; and
- provide the holders relief from liability.

How does the Division of Banking, Insurance and Financial Regulation locate the owners?

The Division is required to publish the names of unclaimed property owners reported in the previous year in the Virgin Islands in a newspaper of general circulation. This information is also published on the website of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, <https://ltg.gov.vi>.

What is the process for filing a claim?

To claim property electronically, property owners will be required to fill out a secure form online (including name, social security number, birthdate, and address). Depending on the complexity of your claim, additional supporting documents may be required to verify proof of ownership or authority to file a claim, e.g., power of attorney, court documents, etc. Do note that persons seeking to file unclaimed property claim(s) can do so at any time. There is no statute of limitation to file a valid claim