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\$390M awaiting claim through Taxation and Revenue Department unclaimed property fund

Claiming unclaimed property is free and easy

SANTA FE — With the holidays just around the corner, the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department encourages New Mexicans to see if they have any money or other abandoned property held by the state, which they can easily claim.

The Taxation and Revenue Department safeguards abandoned property turned over to the state after a period of inactivity. Currently, \$390 million sits with the department and is available to reclaim. Individual claims average \$500, but vary considerably.

This year, the department has paid 6,414 claims totaling \$18.5 million.

"The Taxation and Revenue Department wants to reunite owners with their lost property," said **Taxation and Revenue Department Secretary Stephanie Schardin Clarke**. "The holiday season can be financially stressful, and there's no better time to check for unclaimed property to help alleviate some of that stress."

Property often ends up abandoned after a death or when people move, change jobs, or simply forget about it. Unclaimed property includes many types of assets — money, uncashed checks, safe deposit box contents, credit balances, security deposits, securities, and more.

People can search and file a claim for unclaimed property in New Mexico, at no cost, by visiting nmclaims.unclaimedproperty.com. Claimants can create an account to track the progress of their claims.

For single-owner properties of \$500 or less, claimants can securely enter their claim information, such as name, date of birth and Social Security Number, and they will be asked a security question to verify their identity. If the information matches, the claim will be processed electronically.

For claims involving more than one owner, businesses, deceased owners, or property over \$500 in value, users can complete a PDF form. The form, along with documentation to prove ownership or heir status, can be uploaded for processing and payment, if approved.

The turn-around time for receiving unclaimed property varies. While most claims are processed more quickly, the department has 90 days from the date a claim is filed to approve or deny it and an additional 30 days to pay the claim.

Learn more about unclaimed property by visiting Taxation & Revenue's <u>YouTube channel</u> or <u>website</u>. Questions can also be emailed to the Department at <u>unclaimed.property@tax.nm.gov</u>.



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The Taxation and Revenue Department serves the State of New Mexico by providing fair and efficient tax and motor vehicle services. It administers more than 35 tax programs and distributes revenue to the State and to local and tribal governments throughout New Mexico.

The Department strives to reduce taxpayer burden through clearer communication, statutes, regulations, forms, correspondence and instructions.

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