

## **GLOSSARY OF COMMON UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TERMS**

**Abandoned (Unclaimed) Property:** Tangible or intangible property that is unclaimed or by its rightful owner.

**Activity:** Action taken on property by the owner which may include making a deposit, a withdrawal, a written memorandum to the holder or any action that a state's statute deems adequate.

**Aggregate:** The sum total dollar value of individual owner accounts which are less than the maximum dollar value required to be reported in detail.

**Banking Organization:** A bank, trust company, savings bank, industrial bank, land bank, safe deposit company, private banker, or any organization defined by law as a bank or banking organization.

**Business Association:** A non-public corporation, joint stock company, investment company, business trust, partnership or association for business purposes of two or more individuals, whether or not for profit, including a banking organization, financial organization, insurance company or utility.

**Conservator:** An individual who is court appointed to legally hold, manage, and safeguard the value of another person's property.

**Custodian:** An individual or entity that holds property until it is delivered to the rightful owner. Most states' laws make the abandoned property division a "custodian" of the abandoned property remitted to the state.

**Dormancy Date/Date of Last Activity:** The date of last contact by the owner with the listed holder.

**Dormancy Period:** The time when an owner of property does not take action on his or her property.

**Due Diligence:** A final effort on the holder's behalf to contact an owner. Each state has statutes on the degree of effort required that a holder of abandoned property must use to find the rightful owner of property before remitting the property to the state.

**Escheat:** A transfer of property that makes the state the legal owner of the transferred property. Few states operate under an "escheat" law for abandoned property. (Compare to "custodian".)

**Financial Organization:** A savings and loan association, cooperative bank, building and loan association, savings bank or credit union.

**Holder:** A person, wherever organized or domiciled, who is in possession of property belonging to

another, a trustee or is indebted to another on an obligation.

**Indemnification:** An agreement that protects a party from loss by transferring the responsibilities to a third party.

**Insurance Company:** An individual, association, corporation, fraternal or mutual benefit organization, or any other legal entity, whether or not for profit, that is engaged or attempting to engage in the business of making insurance or surety contracts.

**Intangible Property:** Depending on each state's statute, could include the following; money, checks, drafts, deposits, interest, dividends and income, credit balances, customer overpayment, gift certificates, security deposits, refunds, credit memos, unpaid wages, unused airline tickets, unidentified remittances; stocks and other intangible ownership interest in business associations, money deposited to redeem stocks, bonds, coupons, and other securities, or to make distributions, amounts due and payable under the terms of insurance policies, amounts distributable from a trust or custodial fund established under a plan to provide health, welfare, pension, vacation, severance, retirement, death, stock purchase, profit sharing, employee savings, supplemental unemployment insurance, or similar benefits.

**Last Known Address:** A description of the location of the apparent owner, sufficient for the purpose of the delivery of mail.

**Owner:** A person having legal or equitable claim to the abandoned property.

**Official Check:** A check or written instrument for which a banking, financial organization, or business association is directly liable; including but not limited to drafts, money orders, travelers checks, cashiers checks, expense and payroll checks.

**Person:** Any individual, business association, government or public subdivision, public corporation or authority, estate, trust, two or more persons having a joint or common interest; or any other legal or commercial entity.

**Rightful Owner:** A person who has the legal right to the property.

**Property:** Tangible or intangible personal property owned by a person.

**Reporting Process:** Generally, states process a holder's report through "report/remit" or "dual reporting".

"Report/Remit": Some states' laws require holders to file one report a year and simultaneously remit the abandoned property which is described in the report.

"Dual Reporting": Some states' laws require holders to file an "initial publication report" listing the names and addresses of individuals for which the holder has apparent abandoned property in its possession. Usually, the states use the information in the "publication report" to publish or give notice to the owners listed in the report within a legally defined time period. After the owner notice or publication occurs, the holder is required to file a final or

“remittance report” listing those owners from the “publication report” for whom property is still held. Normally, at the time the final remittance report is filed, the holder is required to remit the abandoned property listed in the report.

**Tangible Property:** Includes items in safe deposit boxes.

**Unclaimed (a.k.a. “Abandoned”) Property:** Tangible or intangible property that is unclaimed by its rightful owner.

**Underlying Shares:** Shares of stock issued by a business association, banking organization or financial organization, the certificates for which are in the possession of the shareholders, but regarding which the shareholders have failed to either cash dividend checks, correspond with the issuing corporation or respond to the issuing corporation's attempts to make contact. In other words, an underlying share of stock is an ownership interest in a business entity, the certificate or other evidence of which is presumably in the possession of the missing owner

**Utility:** A person who owns or operates for public use any plant, equipment, property, franchise, or license for the transmission of communications or the production, storage, transmission, sale or delivery, or furnishing of electricity, water, steam, or gas.

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