



Court Funds Office

Unclaimed Funds

serving
the community
through the
administration
of justice

Northern Ireland Court Service
www.courtsni.gov.uk

We can provide this booklet in a wide range of alternative formats please contact the Information Centre at:

Northern Ireland Court Service
Information Centre
Windsor House
Bedford Street
Belfast BT2 7LT

Telephone 028 9032 8594
Facsimile 028 9041 2390
Textphone 028 9041 2920
Email informationcentre@courtsni.gov.uk
www.courtsni.gov.uk

What are Unclaimed Funds?

Court Funds Office (CFO) administers a number of accounts that are classified as unclaimed funds. These funds are held by CFO as it has been unable to effect payment, for whatever reason, to the persons entitled to them. Examples of when unclaimed funds occur would include:

- Money held for young persons (minors) that was not claimed after they turned 18;
- Money held on behalf of patients under the control of the Office of Care & Protection, who subsequently died;
- Surplus funds lodged in Court after a property has been repossessed;
- Bail money paid in by a surety, not claimed after the court case has been dealt with;
- Money left in a will where the beneficiary cannot be found; or
- Money paid in High Court or County Court cases that have not been claimed after the case has been settled.

When are funds classified as Unclaimed?

Provided that CFO has taken all reasonable steps to facilitate the payment of funds to their rightful owner, funds can be classified as unclaimed in the following cases:

In respect of a minor – funds are held in Court until they reach 18 years. If contact cannot be made with the person to arrange payment, and CFO are unable to determine why the money has not been claimed, the funds can be classified as unclaimed when the person reaches the age of 23.

In respect of an adult – legislation directs that if funds have been in Court and there have been no transactions, other than the credit of annual interest or dividends which may have been earned, during the past 15 years, the Accountant General can deem the money as unclaimed.

Where can I find out more about Unclaimed Funds?

CFO maintains a list of funds that have been classified as unclaimed. You can contact our office either in person, by telephone, by post or by email. Contact details have been provided on page 5 of this leaflet. Alternatively, the list is published on our website:

www.courtsni.gov.uk

(click: Services – Funds Held in Court – Unclaimed Court Funds)

For privacy reasons the list does not disclose the amount of money involved. When contact is made with CFO they can provide the appropriate information.

Please note: There are also funds held in Court that have not been classified as unclaimed due to their ongoing investigation. If you believe that CFO is holding funds to which you are the rightful owner please contact them for advice.

How can I claim my funds?

After contacting CFO, you may be referred to the relevant Court Office. There you will have to produce identification and make an application, proving that you are entitled to the funds, before any money can be paid to you.

If you are the beneficiary of a deceased person's estate, and believe that there may have been some Funds held in Court for that person, CFO will be able to inform you of what action needs to be taken.

Court Funds Office (CFO) contact details:

Court Funds Office
3rd Floor Bedford House
16-22 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7FD

Tel: (028) 90 728895

E-mail: courtfundsoffice@courtsni.gov.uk



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Northern Ireland Court Service please contact

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