



February 23, 2016

The purpose of this correspondence is to make you aware that an unclaimed sweepstakes listing under your name is now in the process of liquidation.

NAUPA (National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators) is a company that assumes unclaimed property as well as unclaimed awards from various sweepstakes and lottery companies. NAUPA is the association of the state unclaimed property programs and has filed an official request for liquidation of an award that was previously listed in your name.

-What is unclaimed property?

Unclaimed property (sometimes referred to as abandoned) refers to accounts in financial institutions and companies that have had no activity generated or contact with the owner for one year or a longer period. Common forms of unclaimed property include savings or checking accounts, stocks, un-cashed dividends or payroll checks, unclaimed awards from sweepstakes and lottery listings, refunds, traveler's checks, trust distributions, unredeemed money orders or gift certificates (in some states), insurance payments or refunds and life insurance policies, annuities, certificates of deposit, customer overpayments, utility security deposits, mineral royalty payments, and contents of safe deposit boxes.

-What happens to these accounts that have no activity?

Acting in the best interest of consumers, each state has enacted an unclaimed property statute that protects your funds from reverting back to the company you have lost contact with them. These laws instruct companies to turn forgotten funds over to a state official who will then make a diligent effort to find you or your heirs. Most states hold lost funds until you are found, returning them to you at no cost or for a nominal handling fee upon filing a claim form and verification of your identity. Since it is impossible to store and maintain all of the contents that are turned over from safe deposit boxes, most states hold periodic auctions and hold the funds obtained from the sale of the items for the owner. Some states also sell stocks and bonds and return the proceeds to the owner in the same manner.

- How do states try to return this money?

The state treasurers and other officials who administer the unclaimed property programs have developed many powerful and effective methods to locate owners including the use of websites, cross-checking public data, staging thousands of awareness events at state fairs and even shopping malls, and developing a national database. The methods work as tens of millions of potential lost owners inquire annually resulting in this vital consumer protection program returning money to people at a rate approaching two billion dollars annually.

- I have received a notice that property has been found, but there is a fee to obtain it.

There are many businesses; sometimes called finders or locators, which find legitimate lost property for owners and offer to inform them of how to obtain it for a fee, usually a percentage of the total (some states limit the fee to 10 percent). Sometimes, companies will hire these firms to find you before they turn the funds over to the state. Ultimately the finder will ask you to sign a contract. The majority of firms that provide these services work within the law. By law, due to the provisions in the Patriot Act, any transaction in excess of \$100,000 must be properly documented and registered with the Federal Government. This must be done by the recipient of the award before the transaction can proceed. This can be taken care of with assistance from the NAUPA legal department. This is typically a standard charge of (0.5%)

I'd like to make you aware of the current information we have available in your file. This information is listed below and should be kept confidential. More information about this unclaimed award is available at our corporate offices at the numbers listed below. The event was drawn on or about 14th of December of 2014; you were designated as the Second Place Winner, for an award of \$750,000.⁰⁰ before taxes. These funds are currently in a registered escrow account in the name of our organization NAUPA.

If you decide to make a claim of these funds, the Federal Trade Commission can suspend any and all liquidation proceedings and request these funds to be transferred into your name. Please be advised by making claim you are legally responsible for Federal Taxes. The Internal Revenue Service will assume 25% which in this case \$187,500.⁰⁰. There is also a mandatory Obama dividend tax of 15% that was initiated for any lump sum income of over \$250,000.⁰⁰. In this particular case that tax will be \$112,500.⁰⁰. Therefore after taxes, you are entitled to receive an amount of \$450,000.⁰⁰

At the point that you receive your funds, you are still responsible of any city, state or local taxes that apply to your tax bracket. If you do not understand this information, contact our corporate office at 1-617-981-6164.

I need to inform you that due to the provisions found in the Patriot Act any transaction in excess of \$100,000.⁰⁰ must be properly documented and registered to the Federal Government; United States Department of the Treasury. A 1099 Form will be used to register the winning amount under your name and in your state of **Maine**; you will be required to pay taxes to the IRS on this award starting 2016.

There are important registration stamps that accompany your 1099 form that validate the funds on your certified check. In order for you to deposit your \$450,000.⁰⁰ into the US banking system these stamps are required. Without these federal stamps, if you were to take this check to your bank to make a deposit, the bank has the right to block your transaction and question you as it relates to fraud or money laundering and even tax evasion. As the previously designated recipient, you are entitled to claim this award by purchasing the necessary Federal State Registration Stamp. This must be done by you, the recipient before the transaction can proceed. This can be taken care of by assistance from **NAUPA** legal department. Typically this is a standard charge of 0.5%. In this case that is **\$2,250.⁰⁰** and is required before the transaction can proceed. These payments are to be made at the closest federal office in your state. Please contact our offices for further details.

If you are unable to claim your listing within the specified time frame, your listing will be liquidated. Our organization is entitled to receive 25% of the listed amount and the remainder will be donated to a charity of our choosing. NAUPA is fully prepared to absorb all the associated liquidation, banking, legal, and escrow as well as registration/documentation fees as it relates to the processing of this award **IF** this process rolls over to liquidation.

You are normally designated 3-5 business days from the point of notification in order to complete your process of claim. You may qualify for an extension or financial aid. Failure to complete your process within the specified time frame will result in this listing sent to liquidation. For further details please speak with a qualified representative by contacting the numbers listed below.



Warren Tyler

Unclaimed Property Adjustors

National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators

1 Ashburton Place, 12th Floor Boston MA 02108

Legal Department

1-617-861-████

[Mon-Fri 9am-5pm]

NB: It is very important to stay alert for sweepstakes scams however it is also equally important not to let your win pass you by because of things that might seem a little strange but are actually a normal part of the award registration process. In these situations we recommend to always remember to apply common sense on these matters and never give out any personal or banking information over the telephone. There are also certain businesses that although are legal, they are consistently being used by fraudulent organizations. Services such as WU, MG, Green Dot, Lloyds are not official methods of payment and they are not endorsed by the FTC. Every time someone asks you to make a payment using these services it is considered as fraud. The official methods of payment are Postal Money Orders or Overnight Priority Express.

Until this situation is resolved, we have the obligation that since you are a registered winner you might be approached by individuals that will attempt to defraud you. We advise you to keep your winning confidential and all information about your claim process private in order to reduce these instances of fraud.

All incidences of fraud/fraudulent activity must be reported to the ***Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, 600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC 20580***

**Fraud
Letter
Example**