

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## REVENUE DEPARTMENT SEEKS TO RETURN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TO RIGHTFUL OWNERS

(HELENA) - The Montana Department of Revenue might have something valuable that belongs to you. You may be one of thousands of people who have unclaimed property that has been turned over to the state.

This isn't small change, either. In fiscal year 2009, property holders turned in about \$5.4 million worth of unclaimed property and owners reclaimed about \$2.3 million worth.

As required by law, the department has started publishing the names of property owners who had a last known address in Montana. The list, which runs as an insert in local papers, only includes owners who have property that holders reported to the state between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

"If you see your name on the list, don't hesitate to contact the department so you can reclaim your property," says Department of Revenue Director Dan Bucks. "We like to see property back in the hands of its rightful owners."

A business or other holder of property may also try to contact you. This happens before the department publishes the list and is the first opportunity for you to reclaim your property. The holders send out written notices between 60 and 120 days before they turn the property over to the state. If you receive this type of notice in the mail and have any questions or concerns, please call the department toll-free (866) 859-2254 (444-6900 in Helena).

"You have two opportunities to reclaim your property - with the business holding it or later when it's turned over to the state. Either way, millions of dollars worth of property is unclaimed, so be sure to reclaim yours when you can," says Bucks.

Are you wondering now whether you have unclaimed property? Missed the published list or don't want to wait? You can check online 24 hours a day, seven days a week at [MissingMoney.com](http://MissingMoney.com). Montana is a partner with this free national database that lists unclaimed property from 37 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Alberta, Canada.

If you want the department to conduct a search for you, simply call toll-free (866) 859-2254 (444-6900 in Helena). An employee will run a search on the department's computer system to see if you have any unclaimed property. If you do, the department will mail you a claim form and a checklist of the documents needed to process your claim. Returning the documents shown on the checklist, along with your signed and notarized claim form, will help the department to process your claim quickly.

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