

Instructions for Filing an Application for Payment of Unclaimed Funds

Unclaimed funds are monies held by the court for an individual or entity who is entitled to the money but who has failed to claim ownership of it. The United States Courts, as custodians of unclaimed funds, have established policies and procedures for holding, safeguarding, and accounting for the funds.

I. Searching Unclaimed Funds

To search unclaimed funds, use the [Unclaimed Funds Locator](https://ucf.uscourts.gov/) at <https://ucf.uscourts.gov/>. To search the Western District of Oklahoma Bankruptcy Court, select OKWB – Oklahoma Western Bankruptcy Court – from the dropdown list and enter the applicable search criteria. If access to a computer is necessary, a public computer terminal is available at the Court located at 215 Dean A. McGee Avenue, Suite 147, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. Additionally, you may contact the Clerk’s office at (405) 609-5765 to verify unclaimed funds balances.

II. Filing Requirements for Payment of Unclaimed Funds

a. Application for Payment of Unclaimed Funds

Any party who seeks the payment of unclaimed funds must file an Application for Payment of Unclaimed Funds that substantially complies with the court’s standard application form and must serve a copy of the application on the United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma. For purposes of this procedure, the **Applicant** is the party filing the application, and the **Claimant** is the party entitled to the unclaimed funds. The Applicant and Claimant may be the same person or entity.

b. Supporting Documentation

1. Payee Information

Funds are payable to the Claimant or payable jointly to the owner of record and a funds locator, if authorized by a power of attorney. When filing an Application for Payment of Unclaimed Funds, the Claimant’s tax identification number or social security number must be provided to the court on a certification form signed by the Claimant to whom funds are being paid.

A. Domestic Claimant

A Claimant who is a U.S. person¹ must use either the [AO 213](#) or W-9 certification form (accessible by searching on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) website at: <https://www.irs.gov/>). If a Claimant seeks payment via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), the [AO 213](#) form must be used.

B. Foreign Claimant

¹ **U.S. person** includes: an individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien; a partnership, corporation, company or association created or organized in the U.S. or under the laws of the U.S.; an estate (other than a foreign estate); or a domestic trust (as defined in 26 C.F.R. 301.7701-7).

A foreign Claimant must use a W-8 certification form (accessible by searching on the IRS website at: <https://www.irs.gov/>) accompanied by the [AO-215](#) form.

If you have problems completing a form, please contact the Clerk's office at (405) 609-5765.

2. Additional Supporting Documentation

Requirements for additional supporting documentation vary depending on the type of Claimant and whether the Claimant is represented. Please read the instructions below to identify the documentation that must accompany your Application for Payment of Unclaimed Funds.

Sufficient documentation must be provided to the court to establish the Claimant's identity and entitlement to the funds. Proof of identify must be provided in unredacted form with a current address. If joint Claimants apply for payment, supporting documentation must be provided for both Claimants.

A. Owner of Record

The Owner of Record is the original payee entitled to the funds appearing on the records of the court. If the Claimant is the Owner of Record, the following additional documentation is required:

i. Owner of Record - Individual

- a. Proof of identity of the Owner of Record (*e.g.*, unredacted copy of driver's license, other state-issued identification card, or U.S. passport that includes current address); and
- b. A notarized signature of the Owner of Record (included in application).

ii. Owner of Record - Business or Government Entity

- a. Application must be signed by an authorized representative for and on behalf of the business or government entity;
- b. A notarized statement of the signing representative's authority to submit an application; and
- c. Proof of identity of the signing representative (*e.g.*, unredacted copy of driver's license, other state-issued identification card, or U.S. passport that includes current address).

If the Owner of Record's name has changed since the funds have been deposited with the court, proof of the name change must be provided.

B. Successor Claimant

A successor Claimant may be entitled to the unclaimed funds as a result of assignment, purchase, merger, acquisition, succession, or by other means. If the Claimant is a successor to the original Owner of Record, the following documentation is required:

i. Successor Claimant - Individual

- a. Proof of identity of the successor Claimant (*e.g.*, unredacted copy of driver's

license, other state-issued identification card, or U.S. passport that includes current address);

- b. A notarized signature of the successor Claimant (included in application); and
- c. Documentation sufficient to establish chain of ownership or the transfer of claim from the original Owner of Record.

ii. Successor Claimant – Business or Government Entity

- a. Application must be signed by an authorized representative for and on behalf of the successor entity;
- b. A notarized statement of the signing representative's authority to seek the funds;
- c. A notarized power of attorney signed by an authorized representative of the successor entity;
- d. Proof of identity of the signing representative (*e.g.*, unredacted copy of driver's license, other state-issued identification card, or U.S. passport that includes current address); and
- e. Documentation sufficient to establish chain of ownership or the transfer of claim from the original Owner of Record.

iii. Deceased Claimant's Estate

- a. Proof of identity of the estate representative (*e.g.*, unredacted copy of driver's license, other state-issued identification card, or U.S. passport that includes current address);
- b. Certified copies of probate documents or other documents authorizing the representative to act on behalf of the decedent or decedent's estate in accordance with applicable state law; and
- c. Documentation sufficient to establish the deceased Claimant's identity and entitlement to the funds.

C. Claimant Representative

If the Applicant is Claimant's attorney or other representative, the following documentation is required:

- i. Proof of identity of the representative (*e.g.*, unredacted copy of driver's license, other state-issued identification card, or U.S. passport that includes current address);
- ii. A notarized power of attorney signed by the Claimant (or Claimant's authorized representative) on whose behalf the representative is acting; and
- iii. Documentation sufficient to establish the Claimant's identity and entitlement to the funds, as set forth above.

III. Filing the Application

The application, supporting documentation, certificate of service, and proposed order must be mailed to the court at the following address:

U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Western District of Oklahoma
215 Dean A. McGee Ave Suite 147
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

IV. Post-Filing Process

Any party objecting to the Claimant's request in the application shall, within fourteen (14) days after service thereof, serve upon the Applicant and other appropriate parties and file with the court an objection to the application.

If the application is found to be insufficient or lacking required information, it will be denied and returned to the submitting party for correction or addition and resubmission.

If no response or objection has been filed within fourteen (14) days from the date of filing of the application, an application which provides sufficient documentation to establish the identity of the claimant and the authority of the applicant to make a claim may be approved without a hearing. The Court, in its discretion, may set a hearing and/or require such additional evidence before issuing an order granting or denying the application. Unclaimed Funds will be distributed after an Order authorizing their release has been signed.

Any and all indications of fraud will be referred to the United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma.

V. Links

AO-213

W-9 (accessible by searching on the IRS website at: <https://www.irs.gov/>)

W-8 (accessible by searching on the IRS website at: https://www.irs.gov)

AO 215