

## **Instructions for Filing Application for Payment of Unclaimed Funds**

Unclaimed funds are 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 such 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* at <https://ucf.uscourts.gov/>. Select **WIWB – Western District of Wisconsin** from the dropdown list and enter the applicable search criteria. If you need access to a computer to perform the search, you may use the court's public computer terminal located at 120 North Henry Street, Room 340, Madison, Wisconsin or 500 South Barstow Street, Room 223, Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Additionally, you may contact the Clerk's office at 1-833-758-0380 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 in substantial conformance with the court's standard application form and serve a copy of the application on the United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin. 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.

#### **b. Supporting Documentation**

##### **1. Payee Information**

Funds are payable to the Claimant. In conjunction with the Application for Payment of Unclaimed Funds, Claimant's tax identification number (TIN) must be provided to the court on a certification form signed by the Claimant to whom funds are being distributed.

If a funds locator has a limited power of attorney to only collect the funds, the funds are made payable to the original owner of record but may be mailed to the funds locator (if that is what the application indicates), i.e. Owner of Record, c/o Funds Locator, Funds Locator's Address. The tax form (*AO 213P*) must be that of the owner of record, and funds will be disbursed by check or EFT.

If a funds locator is an assignee to the owner of record, the funds are made payable to the assignee, i.e. Funds Locator LLC, Assignee to Owner of Record, Funds Locator's Address. The tax form (*AO 213P*) must be that of the funds locator and the funds will be disbursed by check or EFT.

If a funds locator is a transferee (which makes them the owner of record), the funds are made payable to the funds locator and will be disbursed by check or EFT.

**A. Domestic Claimant**

A Claimant who is a U.S. person<sup>1</sup> must use either the **AO 213P** or W-9 certification form (accessible by searching on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) website at: <https://www.irs.gov>).

If a Claimant wants payment via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), the **AO 213P** form must be used.

**B. Foreign Claimant**

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 1-833- 758-0380.**

**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 what 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 identity must be provided in unredacted form with a current address. If there are joint Claimants, 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 (incorporated 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; 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, then proof of the name change must be provided.

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<sup>1</sup> "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).

**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 (incorporated 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;
- 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 (*e.g.*, small estate affidavit); 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.

**c. Filing the Application**

The application and supporting documentation must be mailed to the court at the following address:

**U.S. Bankruptcy Court  
Western District of Wisconsin  
120 N Henry St Rm 340  
Madison WI 53703**

**III. Links**

***AO 213P***

***AO 215***

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/>)