



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office

Michigan Hall of Justice

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Jennifer Warner
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 5, 2016

TO: Judges
Court Administrators
Probate Registers
County Clerks
Case Management System Vendors

FROM: Robin Eagleson, Management Analyst

RE: 2015 PA 242: Amendment to the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act

On December 22, 2015, amendments to the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act (the “Act”) were signed into law by the Governor ([2015 PA 242](#)), with immediate effect. Among other things, Public Act 242 provides that, with certain exceptions,¹ property worth \$25.00 or less is not subject to the custody of the State as unclaimed property. Information on escheating unclaimed property can be found in the Michigan Court Administration Reference Guide ([MCARG](#)) in section 6-05, paragraph E7. We expect that the 2016 revisions to the MCARG, including those reflecting 2015 PA 242, will be finalized and distributed no later than early March of 2016.

Pursuant to [MCL 567.238](#)(2)(d), abandoned property must be reported and items of value under \$50.00 each may be reported in the aggregate. However, the addition of section 4a of [2015 PA 242](#) has changed this requirement as follows:

- Any property valued at \$25.00 or less is not to be reported or escheated.
- Only items valued at \$25.01 to \$49.99 are to be reported in the aggregate and escheated.

Therefore, if the value of the property is \$25.00 or less, the court is not required to report or remit this property. If the value of the property is greater than \$25.00, the court is required to report and remit as usual pursuant to this Act. The notice requirement of [MCL 567.238](#)(5)

¹ Dividends and other property described in section 11a of the Act ([MCL 567.231a](#)) remain subject to escheat, even if less than \$25.00.

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remains unchanged and requires written notice to the owner of the property no matter the valued amount.

Property valued at \$25.00 or less unclaimed for one year should be remitted to the funding unit as unclaimed property. If an individual requests a refund of these unclaimed funds, and the court has verified that the individual is the rightful owner of the unclaimed property, the court must process the refund. If the property owner is an out-of-state resident, the unclaimed property must be reported and remitted to the state of the owner's last-known address, regardless of the value.

If you have any further questions regarding the above amendment, please contact Trial Court Services – Collections at 517-373-4987 or TrialCourtServices@courts.mi.gov. If you have questions regarding the escheat or remittance process, please contact Renate Anderson-Kempher at 517- 373-9647 or kemperr@courts.mi.gov.