



**SCOTT MEACHAM
OKLAHOMA STATE TREASURER**

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**Treasurer Issues Warning about
Fake Unclaimed Property Web Sites**

Meacham Refers Matter to AG's Consumer Protection Division

OKLAHOMA CITY – State Treasurer Scott Meacham issued a warning to Oklahomans today about official-looking web sites that offer to help find unclaimed property for a fee. Meacham also has asked the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's office to determine whether the web sites are perpetrating fraud.

"My warning to Oklahoma consumers is don't be fooled by these web sites," said Meacham, administrator of Oklahoma's Unclaimed Property Program. "Our web address is www.treasurer.ok.gov, but several of the fake web sites have addresses similar to our official web site and could easily trick people into paying money for a service that we offer for free."

Meacham said he hopes legal action can be taken against the owners of such web sites. "An unsuspecting visitor to one of these sites could be fooled into thinking they are visiting my web site when nothing could be further from the truth," he said.

Meacham said the one and only web site operated by his office is found at www.treasurer.ok.gov. By clicking on the black and gold button with the pot of gold graphic that reads "Search for Unclaimed Property," visitors are taken to a page for conducting a search of the treasurer's unclaimed property list.

"We are working to return \$260 million to 350,000 Oklahomans, and we will not make anyone pay any money to either search for or claim what rightfully belongs to them," he said.

When businesses lose track of people to whom they owe money, the law requires they turn over the funds and the name and last known address of the owners. Examples of unclaimed property include cash, rebates, paychecks, royalties, stocks, bonds and safe deposit box contents.

In addition to the web site, Meacham conducts outreach such as publication in state newspapers of the names of those with unclaimed property, phone banks during newscasts on Oklahoma City and Tulsa television stations and booths at the Oklahoma City and Tulsa state fairs.

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