



Project Rightful Owner

SEARCH FOR OWNERS OF UNCLAIMED SHERIFF'S SALE EXCESS PROCEEDS

The Superior Court has over \$5 million waiting to be claimed by the Rightful Owner of the money. The funds are the excess proceeds of Sheriff's Sales that occurred in the past five years.

Excess proceeds arise when the value of the property, at the time of sale, exceeds the amount of money needed to pay off all recorded liens and mortgages. Because of the dramatic increase in the value of real estate in recent years, excess proceeds have become more common.

If you have a claim, you are encouraged to secure an attorney to assist you because the process of demonstrating your entitlement to the money can be complicated.

If you qualify, pro bono (no fee) attorneys are available. If you need pro bono assistance, you may contact the **Delaware Volunteer Legal Services at 302.478.8850**—tell them that your call concerns Superior Court's Project Rightful Owner.

If you can prove entitlement to all, or a portion of the money, you will also receive interest from the time the money was transferred from the Sheriff's Office to the Prothonotary of the Superior Court.

Search the online list and make sure that the name, Sheriff's Sale property address, and Sheriff's Sale date exactly match your records. The list is arranged in alphabetical order by people's last name or business/firm's name.

Go online to the **Delaware State Courts'** website <http://courts.delaware.gov>

Click on the **Superior Court** link.

Click on the **Project Rightful Owner** link.

Setting Priorities

Things to know:

- **Narrow your objectives:** Identify your goals clearly and why they matter to you, and decide which are most important.
- **Focus first on the goals that matter.**
- **Put time on your side:** The most important ally you have in reaching your goals is time.
- **Choose carefully:** You should look for things that will help you feel financially secure, happy or fulfilled
- **Start now:** The longer you wait to identify and begin working toward your goals, the more difficulty you'll have reaching them
- **Keep spending on course:** Whenever you make a large payment for anything ask yourself: "Is this taking me nearer to my primary goals -- or leading me further away from them?" If a big expense doesn't get you closer to your goals, try to defer or reduce it.
- **Be prepared for change:** Your needs and desires will change as you age, so you should probably reexamine your priorities at least every five years.

That's why to get what you want most you must:

- 1) Decide which goals will take priority and
- 2) Work toward the lesser goals only after the really important ones are well provided for.

Fortunately, you have at least one ally in meeting your long-range goals: **TIME**. Suppose there are two siblings who both invest in Individual Retirement Accounts earning 8 percent a year. The sister starts at age 20, and for the next 10 years she stuffs \$3,000 a year into her IRA. At age 30, though, she stops and never adds another penny. Her brother waits until age 30 to get started, but then dutifully salts away \$3,000 a year for the rest of his life. Which sibling do you think will be better off? In this case, the early bird will always be ahead. The sister reaches age 65 with over \$642,000, while her brother will have a little under \$518,000 - about 20 percent less. Of course, it's far better, to start early AND keep it up. If both siblings started saving \$3,000 a year in an IRA at 20, and kept it up until retirement, each would end up with nearly \$1.2 million.

Here are some goals you may want to consider:

- Accumulating enough savings to handle an emergency situation.
- Buying a house.
- Getting out of debt.
- Ensuring that your parents are comfortable and well taken care of in their old age.
- Paying for your children's college education.
- Amassing enough wealth to retire comfortably.

source:: cnnmoney.com

"A bank is a place where they lend you an umbrella in fair weather and ask for it back when it begins to rain."

Robert Frost