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Nearly \$100K of unclaimed money at Lee County Clerk's Office

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By Brenna Weick, Reporter

LEE COUNTY, Fla. - There is nearly \$100,000 unclaimed at the Lee County Clerk's Office.

Checks that are sent to residents and businesses on behalf of Lee County end up "stale" if they aren't deposited or cashed within six months.

"You'd be surprised how much money goes unclaimed," said Lee County Clerk, Linda Doggett. "About \$97,000 in unclaimed monies."

The money is owed to residents and businesses from across the county.

"We're talking about vendors, everybody that would do business for the county or with the county that we're paying," said Doggett.

NBC 2 tracked down some of the businesses on the county's list but didn't have much luck.

"They go out of business and just disappear," said Doggett. "Then they're not getting their mail, then they're not getting the checks we're sending them."

The Clerk's Office posts a list of unclaimed monies on their website, ranging from \$1.00 to \$20,000.00 but their efforts to find the owners end there.

"They need to track down these people definitely," said Brian Robertson. "They should find out who these people are and give them their money."

One woman checked the unclaimed monies list back in her home state of Ohio and saw plenty of her family members' names.

"I checked everybody's names and let them know that they had money coming to them or not, but quite a few of our names were on the list," said Patti Bauer.

Unless you know to check the list, the money will eventually be turned over to the state.

"I can't tell you what the state's going to do with that money," said Doggett. "But if you claim it and it's a valid claim they'll refund the money."

Residents and businesses on the unclaimed monies list have until March 25 to fill out a form, have it notarized, and sent to the Clerk's office. After that date, all monies will be forfeited to the state, which will handle reimbursements from then on.

[Click here](#) to see if your name is on the Lee County Clerk's Office unclaimed monies list.

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