



May 01, 2025

Escheat of Funds

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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| Escheat of Funds | . 3 |
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Escheat of Funds

Reference Number: CTAS-1604

A clerk may have funds remaining in court from a delinquent tax sale after all taxes, interest, penalties and cost have been paid and the former owners of the property cannot be located in order to disburse these funds to them. A clerk should make a reasonable effort to locate the owners of such property.

Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 66-29-101 *et seq.*, sets forth the procedure a clerk should follow regarding unclaimed property. The procedure requires the clerk to file reports and to remit the funds to the state after a certain time period. The county may ultimately recover these funds, which are distributed to the county general fund, if they remain unclaimed while in the state's possession.¹

¹Op. Tenn. Atty. Gen. 85-201 (June 24, 1985) (duty of the Clerk and Master after a judicial sale of real property, where a buyer pays a sum in excess of all taxes, fees, and costs owing against the property).

Source URL: <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/escheat-funds>