

People May Forget Money, But The State Remembers

By Alty. Gen. Frank J. Kelley

This is a public service article explaining in general terms a provision of Michigan law. Individuals who wish to determine the effect of any law upon their private legal affairs should consult a private attorney.

What happens to the money that people forget?

A student of human nature might expect that individuals may tend from time to time to forget or neglect to pay bills or other obligations owed by them.

He would be surprised, however, to learn that each year millions of dollars represented by bank accounts, bonds, dividends, stocks, as well as paychecks and other property rights, are forgotten and unclaimed by the persons entitled to such property throughout the United States.

Sometimes, there are bizarre situations like an attorney who inexplicably left his residence in a large city in Michigan, moved to the woods of northern Michigan. He ultimately died in apparent poverty many years later, having ignored a substantial bank account as well as a safe deposit box containing thousands of dollars in bonds, which he had left behind in the city.

Generally, the property forgotten or ignored has only nominal value. At times, however, the amounts are substantial, and it is strange that the owners have apparently disregarded it or evidenced no pecuniary interest in protecting their rights in such property.

Under Michigan Law, property is presumed abandoned and subject to escheat or lapses to the State after being unclaimed, unclaimed or abandoned (no control or claim made for it) for seven years by the person entitled to it.

The law provides that any person, corporation, bank, or other holder of property, having possession, custody or control of property of another person and concerning which property the person entitled to it has ceased, failed or neglected for a

period of two years to exercise dominion or control over his property or to assert a right of ownership or possession, or to make presentment and demand for payment and satisfaction, may divest himself of responsibility for such property by reporting the property with the Department of Treasury, Escheats Division, in Lansing, Mich., and, be discharged from any further liability, accountability or responsibility.

In the event the holder does not voluntarily report and turn over the property after two year dormancy period, the law makes it mandatory that the holder, after seven year dormancy period, report such property on or before June 30 of each year to the department of Treasury, Escheats Division, or be subject to financial and other penalties.

In Michigan, as in other States, rather than allow the bank, corporation or any other holder, or complete stranger to have a "windfall" by keeping such property, the State after required court proceedings takes custody and possession of the unclaimed, uncalled-for or abandoned property.

The State may liquidate the property if it is other than money, and, together with any money escheated, hold the proceeds in trust for the lawful owner or his heirs; but during the interim period until it is reclaimed, the State has the use and benefit of it for general public purposes.



BOBBY GEIER, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Geier, 29972 Hathaway, is thanked by SFC Arthur Moon, Station Commander of the U.S. Army Recruiting Station, 18507 Grand River in Detroit, for assembling military models for the station. SFC Moon, also a Livonia resident, purchases the models and after Bobby assembles them, SFC Moon uses them for recruiting displays. Bobby was made an Honorary Army Recruiter for the day, and visited the Michigan Army Recruiting Headquarters where he met and visited with Lt. Col. Thomas Dennis, Commanding Officer. He also received a guided tour of the headquarters and an orientation of the operation of the Army Recruiting Service.

Livonia Briefs State On Youth Program

The State of Michigan has been briefed on how Livonia goes about the business of helping youths find jobs, and employers find youths for jobs.

The information was sought by the office of Lt. Gov. William G. Milliken, for possible use in a youth employment program being considered by the state.

Mayor Harvey W. Moelke, a sponsor of Livonia's Youth Employment Service plan, discussed in 1962 and which became a reality in 1963, sent the service director to Lansing to explain the program in detail.

Mrs. Betsy T. Tagami did just that, adding the city's experiences in the supplemental employment service to other data collected by the state from other sources.

Let Mrs. Tagami, the salaried director, who operates the agency at City Hall with the help of a part-time clerk, a part-time secretary, and a volunteer trainee from high school, review the interview that may contribute to a statewide study and program.

The Y.E.S. agency provides part or full time employment opportunities for young people between 15 and 22 residing in Livonia.

The office is sponsored by the Livonia Commission on Children and Youth. The 1967 budget is \$12,000. Office hours are 10 to 5 daily, throughout the year.

The agency maintains close contact with the business community, cooperates with the public schools, participates in community functions, with the director appearing before service groups, attending conferences and seminars.

Last year the staff handled 606 new applications, referred 1,816 applicants of whom 1,352 were hired. Figures for the first half of 1967 were not furnished, but with the summer season here, the rush has tapered for seasonal jobs.

Mrs. Tagami also told the Lansing listeners:

"The Livonia Y.E.S. is the first municipal pilot project to be organized, structured, developed and financed as a community action program totally geared to one of the most serious and intricate problems facing our nation, that of providing our youth with the opportunity for practical work experience. In order to relate them-

selves objectively to the world of work, young people must first have the opportunity to be involved in a work situation and to further develop the attitudes and motivation which are inherent to this experience.

In October, 1962 Mayor Moelke discussed the problem of youth employment with the commissioners and suggested we investigate the possibility of structuring a part time summer employment program for local youth.

"The Youth Employment Service became a reality on June 12, 1963, in City Hall. Licensed by the State Superintendent of Private Employment Agencies as a non-fee charging employment bureau, Y.E.S. is entirely supported by city government. It is responsible to the commission.

"Procedures followed include: applications, interviewing, screening, job referrals, placement and job follow-up. The service provides social security applications, working permits, health card procedures and other pertinent data and employment information.

"Serving the local business and residential community, as well as business in the surrounding metropolitan Detroit and suburban areas, the service has provided at least one or more job referrals to 83 per cent of the young people currently registered.

"The high schools refer to the service all fulltime job opportunities which cannot be referred by their own resources. The Y.E.S. refers all co-op employment opportunities for high school youth, in turn, to counselors.

"The service is instrumental in directing job opportunities to the special education counselors to facilitate the placement, wherever possible of the mentally and physically handicapped.

"To homeowners of the vicinity, Y.E.S. provides youthful workers who perform a number of services. To the businessman it means a constant supply of local talent for seasonal or permanent employment. To the community, it means possibly the greatest contribution toward the prevention of juvenile delinquency developed by any city. To our youth, it means an opportunity to learn and earn in the world of work.

'...the talk of the town'

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