

Unclaimed IOLTA Funds

New Opportunity, Old Requirement

Effective September 2023, unclaimed IOLTA funds that have been delivered to the Texas Comptroller will be deposited in the basic civil legal services account for use by programs approved by the Supreme Court of Texas.



IOLTA

The Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account (IOLTA) program, established by the Supreme Court of Texas in 1984, is a significant source of funding civil legal aid in Texas.

Lawyers who handle client funds must participate in the IOLTA program by creating a separate trust account for funds held for a short period of time. The pooled interest from these funds helps support civil legal services.

For various reasons, sometimes the client associated with an IOLTA cannot be located. After exhausting efforts, attorneys are required by law to submit unclaimed or abandoned funds to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts through the unclaimed property process.

Access to Justice for All

The Texas Access to Justice Foundation administers the IOLTA program. Grant funding from TAJF supports 34 organizations throughout the state that help provide critical legal services to more than 120,000 Texas families each year.

→ Visit Unclaimed Property Website

Go to www.claimittexas.gov to learn more about the Texas Comptroller's Unclaimed Property Division

→ Rules & Requirements

Rule 1.15 of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct sets forth a lawyer's obligations regarding funds and other property belonging to clients.

The Texas Property Code governs handling of abandoned property.

