



## Tips from the Experts: Holiday Edition

From Thanksgiving to the New Year, the holidays are quickly approaching. While it may seem like unclaimed property has no place under the tree, you'd be surprised to know the holidays are a great time to put some key tips to use. Read on to hear from our claims experts on how you can protect your assets this holiday season.

1. *Use your gift cards ASAP.* Many of us receive several gift cards during the holidays. You may be surprised to know that using them right away serves your best interest. If you don't, there's a possibility you could forget about it or lose it even when there is still a balance on the card. To prevent your funds from becoming unclaimed property, use the money on your gift card as soon as possible.
2. *Update your wills.* As you spend time with family this holiday season, be sure to take a moment to talk with your loved ones about your estate. Informing your family about your assets and planning for the future is one of the best things you can do to ensure your belongings are protected after you pass. Take a moment during your family gatherings to make any necessary amendments to your will and update it accordingly.
3. *Maintain an inventory.* Did you get a savings bond for the holidays? How about a diamond necklace? If you were gifted something of value this season, add it to your list of assets. If you are not already keeping inventory of your valuables, consider compiling a list. That way, they will be easier to keep track of and won't end up lost or abandoned.
4. *Keep track of your assets.* Make it one of your New Year's resolutions to ensure you know where all of your money and assets are located. Do you have a safe deposit box with a financial institution? Which banks do you have open accounts with? Provide your financial institution with your most recent information to ensure they have your correct address, phone number and email if they need to contact you about your property.

We don't want the aftermath of the holidays to turn into a series of bah humbugs, so follow these tips for good practices on protecting your assets.