



NOTE ON THE LAW SOCIETY'S UNCLAIMED MONEY FUND

Introduction

The Unclaimed Money Fund (“Fund”), established under the Legal Profession Act, came into effect on 1 November 2019. It introduces a framework for the transfer of unclaimed client money to the Fund, which is maintained and administered by the Law Society of Singapore (“Law Society”).

When can a solicitor or Singapore law practice be permitted to transfer unclaimed client money into the Fund?

Client money refers to money which solicitors and Singapore law practices receive in the course of client engagements, to hold on behalf of their clients. The money remains in the client account until it is paid out based on the client’s instructions or returned to the client. However, there may be instances where the client money is left unclaimed in a client account: for example, if the client becomes uncontactable or untraceable.

Solicitors or Singapore law practices will have to meet certain requirements before the Law Society will accept a transfer of the unclaimed client money. A key requirement is that a solicitor or Singapore law practice must show that it has made reasonable efforts to pay the money to the client, before applying to transfer the unclaimed client money to the Fund.

Can a client apply for the payment of transferred unclaimed client money from the Fund?

Yes, if the statutory requirements are met, the Law Society will be able to pay the transferred unclaimed client money to the client if an application is made within 6 years after the transfer date. However, if an application is made beyond the 6-year period, the Law Society may make payments strictly on a discretionary, *ex gratia* basis.

If you have any questions on the Fund, please do not hesitate to seek clarification and further advice from the solicitor in charge of your matter.

You may also wish to contact the Law Society of Singapore at umf@lawsoc.org.sg for more information.