

**Business Hours:** PPG Partners will be closed at **12:00 noon on Fridays through the end of the year**

### **Thank You, Clients!**

We would like to thank *you*, our treasured clients, for allowing us to provide you with tax services this year. We appreciate your business and enjoy working with and assisting you with your tax returns.

We are committed to providing you with the highest quality of tax preparation and excellent service, and hope that your experience during the 2017 tax season has been pleasant.

Once again, thank you for your business. We look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the year.

### **Do You Have Unclaimed Property?**

Unclaimed property is generally any financial asset that is deemed by law to have been abandoned by its owner. Examples of unclaimed property include: certificates of deposit, matured life insurance policies, stocks, uncashed checks, wages, and safe deposit box contents.

Property becomes abandoned when the owner of the property has had no activity for a period of one to five years (depending on the property). Once the property is deemed abandoned by the owner, the holder of the property is required to turn it over to the state Department of Revenue. Holder reports are due by November 1st.

The department acts as the custodian of the property and has a number of methods to locate owners. It advertises annually in newspapers throughout the state, cross-matches names of owners with public records of other state and federal agencies, and most recently, the department has implemented a matching program using income tax records.

If there is a match between an individual and an unclaimed property, the department first offsets any debts before paying a refund on the unclaimed property and then a notice is sent to the owner. If the amount payable is under \$2,000, a check is sent directly to the owner. If the amount payable is more than \$2,000, the owner is sent a letter with instructions to file a claim for the property.

The department also maintains a free, online searchable database of unclaimed property. Since the holder reports are filed annually, it is recommended to search the database annually after the November 1st due date for any new unclaimed property the department may have received.

You can search for unclaimed property by visiting your state's Department of Revenue website or going to the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrator's website at [www.unclaimed.org](http://www.unclaimed.org).

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## **Delta Dental, CDA Agree to Settle Reimbursement Lawsuit**

Delta Dental of California will pay more than \$34 million to certain California dentists in a settlement of a class-action lawsuit between the insurer and the California Dental Association (CDA).

The CDA and Delta Dental jointly announced the settlement in March, which brings to a close more than three years of litigation around the insurer's plans to reduce reimbursement rates for its Premier network.

The dispute centered around plans Delta Dental rolled out in 2013 to reduce reimbursement rates for the Premier network by 8% to 12%. CDA claimed this was a breach of the insurer's "duty of good faith and fair dealing" and that Delta Dental had not "fairly and adequately" given notification of the proposed reduction.

The CDA filed an arbitration claim in August 2013, which was followed by a lawsuit in California Superior Court in June 2014.

The focus of both the arbitration and the lawsuit was the insurer's actions around its participating dentist agreement (PDA), which Delta Dental required for dentists to be a part of the Premier network. The CDA challenged some of Delta's amendments to the PDA and its calculations of limitations on fees paid to participating dentists. The insurer responded that the proposed amendments were not only permitted but were made in line with California's Knox-Keene Act governing healthcare service plans.

The presiding Superior Court judge asked the parties to consider mediation, which began in February 2016. The mediation process produced the proposed settlement, which includes the following provisions:

- Delta Dental must pay \$34,750,000 to Premier Providers who filed annual fee adjustments with the insurer that were below the maximum amounts allowed but that were nonetheless reduced by the insurer based on its own self-determined "inflation adjustment percentage."
- Delta Dental must provide each Premier Provider affected by any attempt to reduce reimbursement fee maximum levels with an individualized analysis of the potential financial impact to his or her practice, based on that dentist's prior 12-month submissions to Delta Dental.
- Delta Dental must provide 120 days' written notice of significant PDA changes to all contracted providers (instead of the 45 days' notice currently required by California law).
- Delta Dental must also provide 12 days' notice to CDA of changes to PDAs so that CDA can have time to review the changes before they are implemented and be prepared to respond to member inquiries.
- Delta Dental will pay \$1.5 million to CDA for a portion of the association's attorney's fees.

Dentists who are part of the lawsuit against Delta Dental of California should expect to receive notices of the proposed settlement in the mail soon. The settlement administrator has until May 12 to mail the formal notices to dentists and set up a website, [deltadentalofcaliforniasettlement.com](http://deltadentalofcaliforniasettlement.com), and phone number for additional information. Dentists who choose not to participate in the class have a June 26 deadline to opt out. Dentists should read the notice carefully, including terms of the settlement and a revised PDA for Premier Providers.

A final approval hearing on the proposed settlement is scheduled for Aug. 31 in San Francisco Superior Court. It is expected that all claims from the settlement amount will be completed within six months after the settlement becomes final.