

# Chapter 16

## Missing or Inadequate Assets

What if assets are missing, or what if there's not enough money? Let's deal with both of these questions.

### ***Missing Assets***

What if after you sort through all the papers you have a strange sensation that there must be other assets that you haven't yet discovered? You feel quite sure that your husband had more money than this, or had at least one life insurance policy--the evidence of which is not showing up in your mail boxes or paper files.

I recommend that you log onto either [www.unclaimed.com](http://www.unclaimed.com), or [www.unclaimedassets.com](http://www.unclaimedassets.com). These are sites offering information on unclaimed property, missing money, veteran's benefits, matured US Savings Bonds, Credit Union Accounts...you name it.

Governmental assistance may be available, such as food stamps, or housing allowances, or free phones, for example. Section 8 housing accepts a portion of your income, for example. Check out these sites for up-to-date info:

- [www.usgovinfo.about.com](http://www.usgovinfo.about.com) and

- [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com).

You may wish to search on Google, or any Internet search engine, for your particular state's websites for specific and timely information on assistance programs.

While your fee-only CFP® can partner with you to search in logical locations, you may wish to hire what's called a forensic accountant. A forensic accountant will do an exhaustive and investigative search for any and all of your husband's/decedent's missing assets. Yes, you would pay a fee (a portion of which may be income tax deductible, further reducing your cost) yet the fee may be small by comparison to either the findings of additional funds, or the peace of mind that comes from knowing you've indeed searched everywhere possible.

### ***Inadequate Assets***

Okay, let's talk about a different scenario than legitimate lost assets. Let's address the situation where you have found all the assets and the sources of income from your beloved, and you realize it is a very small amount, and not enough to see you through your old age. What to do?

Once you have your cash flows totaled, you will now delineate exactly what are your absolutely necessary expenses for survival. Everything else is subject to suspension right now. Often people can find ways to trim away hundreds of dollars each month, money that had

been spent on items/experiences that can be suspended temporarily.

If you are able to work, you will probably begin interviewing for even a part-time job, or jobs, or a full-time job, based upon your skill set and how current your skills are to what the marketplace is seeking. Ask your friends if they know of any opportunities for a hard-working, committed, trustworthy individual, because you ARE that individual.

The job market landscape is changing such that you may land a job working from home if you have a computer and/or telephone. I invite you to think about what your friends value about you. Sometimes we undervalue our own gifts, experience and talents.

Realizing that folks are busy these days, it may surprise you what people are willing to pay big bucks for; things that you may simply do without thinking. Organizational skills or light book keeping skills could land you opportunities to help small businesses or new widows or busy single moms. Think in terms of what **value** you can bring to individuals and companies. And if that's also something you love to do, spread the word, build a website, print some business cards, and off you go, you entrepreneur you!

Alternatively you may need to seek refuge and save money by moving in with another family member or a friend for a finite period of time, a period which you both would negotiate ahead of time. At the end of that period, you

may well renegotiate another period; yet everything would be agreed upon and written down to preserve boundaries--yours and theirs. This responsible approach should give both of you a comfort level and assurance that every measure is being taken to find an alternative solution. Having this arrangement or agreement in writing serves as a ready reminder for those days when you may need a boost to stay the course towards creating an inventive future.

Research meet-up groups in your neighborhood via [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com). Attending these meetings can be a ton of fun, and they don't cost much, if anything. So you're not breaking the bank to make some friends, and those friends might eventually lead to business opportunities.

### **Summary Takeaway:**

*Only you can answer your spending questions, and surprisingly, you will find both a temporary answer AND a more permanent, more pleasing answer by balancing your own budget. I have every confidence in your abilities and in your successes!*