

March 2011

What happens if you can't find your debtor?

This is a problem that often affects creditors, as debtors can be transient or experienced in avoiding creditors. There are some routine places you should search.

These are - The Electoral Roll

- White Pages
- Companies Office Website - www.business.govt.nz

Another option is to hire a private investigator to locate the debtor. Private Investigators are usually excellent at tracking people down but their service comes at a corresponding cost. Often private investigators are only engaged if the debt is of a sufficient amount.

If you have a court order or disputes tribunal order against your debtor but they disappear before you are able to take enforcement action through the court, help is at hand from the Ministry of Justice which allows a confidential address request to be made.

Confidential Address Request

A confidential address request is made in writing to the Ministry of Justice. A copy of the court or disputes tribunal order must be attached and there is a specific form to be filled out. The Ministry of Justice then searches its records. If it finds an address, it provides it to the Court. The Court will then write to you. If the search is unsuccessful you will be told this.

There is no charge for this service and a search can be repeated at a later date if no address was found on the first request.

A confidential address request can also be made to the Department of Building and Housing and/or the Ministry of Social Development. Alternatively address details can be requested from the above government departments or any other government agencies under the official Information Act.

Remember you can only make a confidential address request or ask for an address under the official Information Act if you have a court order against the debtor. Address details will not be provided to creditors for the purpose of starting a claim in court.

As with all debt collection, the key is to act quickly. Once address details are obtained, do something immediately. If you delay there is a

Success Story

Battenman Hamilton Ltd CollectIT has provided us with a diy system for our debtor management which we have implemented and use each month chasing our slow payers.

When we joined CollectIT we had 1 very overdue account that we had been chasing for almost a year. After handing that one over to the CollectIT team to take care of, we were paid within 1 week!! This was after our lawyer had already sent a letter 6 months earlier, to no avail. We are thrilled with their fast action & success!

John Overwater
Director
Ph: 027 44 99 848

[more success stories](#)

Case Study

Thomas Construction Ltd (a company) has an outstanding debt of \$25,000 for some bathroom alterations. They have written to the client on several occasions, to no avail.

Seemingly there is no dispute about the debt so using the CollectIT system, Thomas Construction files proceedings in the District Court and arranges for the proceedings to be served on the debtor.

The debtor takes no steps and Thomas Construction obtains an order (or judgment) after an elapsed

good chance that the debtor will have moved on.

This information and the Confidential Address Request Form are available to CollectIT subscribers on the CollectIT website, www.collectit.co.nz. Alternatively the team at CollectIT Ltd can enforce a court order for you.

Do you have outstanding money?

At CollectIT we are actively pursuing debtors for our clients as well as making the whole process easier and more accessible for our diy subscribers.

If you have outstanding money don't leave it any longer! Contact CollectIT on 07 834 9111 or info@collectit.co.nz

Until next time

don't write off debt... **collectIT**



Catherine Clark & Melanie O'Neill
Directors



0508 CollectIT (0508 26 55 328)

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period of time.

Thomas Construction can continue using the CollectIT diy system to enforce the judgment and collect his money. Alternatively Thomas Construction can hand over their file to the CollectIT office and they will take care of the matter.

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