

Unemployment Insurance Fraud

What You Should Know



The millions of jobs lost during the pandemic has created a surge in unemployment claims as well as an alarming rise in fraudulent claims filed by scammers using stolen social security numbers and other personal information to collect unemployment benefits in their victim's name. **Find out if you are a victim of unemployment insurance fraud and what to do next.**

You may be a victim if you...

Filed for unemployment and find that an unemployment claim already exists

Received a notice from your state unemployment benefits office or your employer about your supposed application for benefits

Got a surprise request for information about unemployment insurance

Report it NOW

Notify your state unemployment benefits agency.

Your employer may have done this for you.

Visit: <https://www.dol.gov/general/maps/fraud>

Contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Visit identitytheft.gov/ for help with a step-by-step personal recovery plan. They can help place the recommended one-year fraud alert on your credit through the major national credit bureaus, get free credit reports to check for any fraudulent accounts, add a free extended fraud alert or credit freeze to your credit report, and more.

More Steps

Review your credit reports weekly for the next year to spot any new fraud quickly.

Set up an account with the Social Security Administration.

This allows you to monitor your annual earnings to ensure a fraudster is not using your social security number for employment. Visit: www.ssa.gov/myaccount/

If you receive benefits you never applied for, report it to your state unemployment agency and ask for instructions.

Beware of phishing scams. Don't respond to official-looking texts, emails or phone calls looking to gather more personal information or that say you need to repay unemployment money "mistakenly sent to you."

If you receive a call from unemployment insurance, Social Security, a bill collector or another source that is soliciting information, hang up and call the entities independently at their verified phone numbers.

For more information, please visit the FTC blog:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/06/scammer-getting-unemployment-benefits-your-name>

Need more information? Your Health Advocate can connect you to a legal or financial specialist for guidance and resources, and the EAP website offers helpful articles on how to protect your identity and avoid scams.



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