

OESC Answers Your Frequently Asked Questions about Unemployment Insurance

1

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

When you file for unemployment benefits you will be responsible for filing your weekly claims, attending all required groups and appointments that you may be scheduled for and keeping a log of your work searches. Please read all information included in this book for additional information regarding your claim.

2

HOW DO I FIND A JOB?

You are required to register for employment services within seven (7) days of initially filing your claim. This can be accomplished by registering at OKJobMatch.com. This interactive job search tool is designed to help you connect with employers and their job openings.

You may also wish to access our services in one of the local workforce centers conveniently located throughout the state: http://www.ok.gov/oesc_web/Services/Workforce_Services/index.html.

3

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY PAYMENT?

By law, the first payable (or allowable) week of the claim is considered to be a waiting period. Although you must still file your weekly claim (either by phone or internet), you will not be paid for the waiting period week.

Once you file for your waiting period, that triggers the mailing of the debit card, UNLESS you have selected direct deposit as your payment method. If there are issues on your claim that are being investigated, or you are not monetarily eligible. Please allow 7-10 days to receive the debit card. If you already have a debit card, then the payment should be issued within two days from filing your second weekly claim.

4

THERE IS AN “ISSUE” ON MY CLAIM. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

An “issue” on your claim (sometimes called a “stop”), means that based on the way you answered a question, either on your initial claim, or on your weekly claim, further investigation is needed to determine if you are eligible for benefits.

An “issue” can also be added for failure to attend a required reemployment service session or the failure to do something that we have asked you to do.

You will be contacted if additional information is needed. An “issue” on your claim will cause a delay in your claim, and a possible disqualification of benefits depending on the findings. In the meantime, you need to continue to file your weekly claims each week while the issue is pending.

5

WHERE IS MY DEBIT CARD? WHAT IS THE BALANCE OF MY DEBIT CARD? HOW DO I SET UP DIRECT DEPOSIT?

If you wish to enroll for direct deposit, you must wait until the next business day after you have filed your claim and then call (866) 320-8699. If you do not sign up for direct deposit, your payments will be made by debit card, which will be mailed out when you are found eligible for payment. It normally takes 7-10 days to receive the card after it is mailed.

For questions regarding your debit card call (866) 320-8699

6

HOW DO I CHANGE MY PIN NUMBER?

Our customer service representatives do not have access to your PIN. If you forget your number or want to change, we can reset your PIN so you can establish a new PIN or you can change your PIN online. Contact your Unemployment Service Center or visit the website at www.unemployment.ok.gov and click on “Change your Pin.”

7

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO HAVE TAXES TAKEN OUT OF MY CHECK?

Unemployment Insurance benefits are subject to federal and state income tax. You must report unemployment benefits you receive when you file your income taxes. By January 31 of each year, the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission will send you a form 1099-G with the amount of benefits you received the prior year. You may elect to have federal and state taxes withheld from your weekly unemployment benefits. If you choose to have taxes withheld, federal taxes of 10% and state taxes of 3% will be deducted from the gross amount of your payment each week.

8

HOW AND WHEN DO I FILE MY WEEKLY CLAIM?

After you have filed your application for benefits, you must file weekly claims in order to receive benefits. The filing week begins on Sunday at 12:01 a.m. and end on Saturday at midnight. You cannot file a weekly claim until after the week is over. If you attempt to file before the week has ended, your claim will not be accepted.



Weekly claims can be filed by:

Internet - Oklahoma Network Initial Claims (ONIC) www.unemployment.ok.gov

OR

Telephone – Interactive Voice Response (IVR)

- Inside the OKC calling area use: (405) 525-1500
- Outside the OKC calling area use: (800) 555-1554

9

WHAT IF I CAN'T FILE MY WEEKLY CLAIM?

Contact your local Service Center during normal business hours if you encounter any problems when filing your weekly claim:

- Inside the Oklahoma City calling area—(405) 525-1500
- Outside the Oklahoma City calling area—(800) 555-1554
- TTY/TDD Calls—(866) 284-6695

10

CAN I WORK PART-TIME AND STILL RECEIVE BENEFITS?

Yes. However, you must report the amount of money you earned, before any deductions were made, for each week, whether or not you were paid during the week. Earnings must be reported **during the week you earn them**, not when you actually receive the payment. Work is anything you do for wages, including self-employment, during the seven days of the week you are claiming Unemployment Insurance benefits.

11

HOW DO I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

If you plan to change your address, you must report the change to your Unemployment Service Center ***prior to filing your weekly claim***. Information required to change an address includes your name, social security number, old address, new address and the employer from whom you were separated when you filed your claim.

12

HOW DO I FILE AN APPEAL?

You can file an appeal in person, by mail, fax, telephone or email. Include your name, social security number, phone number, date of determination, section of law you are appealing and a detailed explanation of why you disagree with the decision. The mailing address, fax number, telephone number and email address will be listed on your determination.

REMEMBER!

Any questions regarding your Unemployment Insurance Claim can be answered by calling (405) 525-1500 or (800) 555-1554 or by visiting our website at ww.unemployment.ok.gov.

