

Mass and Temporary Layoff Claims Benefit Rights Information

Reemployment Assistance for the Unemployed Booklet

The Commission has provided a booklet entitled Reemployment Assistance for the Unemployed which explains your benefit rights. This booklet explains when and how to file your unemployment claim. You will need to read this booklet carefully. You may access this booklet online at www.unemployment.ok.gov. It is your responsibility to read the booklet and to contact us if you have any questions.

You Must be Able and Available to Seek and Accept Work

Should the employer have work for you before your return to work date you must be available to return to work. If at any time you are unable to fulfill this requirement during the week you must contact the Unemployment Insurance Service Center.

You May Not Draw Benefits if Full-time Self-Employed

You are not eligible for benefits if you are self-employed on a full-time basis regardless of whether you are making any money. If you go into business for yourself, you must notify your Unemployment Insurance Service Center.

You Must Report All Earnings

You must report ALL earnings. All monies earned should be reported in the week it is earned, not the week it is paid. You must report the total amount of earnings BEFORE any deductions are made. Failure to report earnings can result in an overpayment and denial of future benefits.

You Must Report Any Retirement Pay

Report all retirement payments to the Unemployment Insurance Service Center. Retirement may be deductible and the Unemployment Insurance Service Center will advise you on the proper procedure.

You Must Report Any Address Change

If you move, you must notify the Unemployment Insurance Service Center of your new address. The U.S. Postal Service does not forward our mail. If you do not contact us, your payment may be delayed and you will not receive notification regarding the outcome of pending issues. This could result in an untimely filing of an appeal.

You Must Serve a One-Week Waiting Period

Oklahoma Law requires a one-week waiting period when you file your initial claim. The first week that you claim during a benefit year in which you meet all of the eligibility requirements will be a waiting period week. No payment will be made for this week.

You Must File Timely Weekly Claims

You must file a weekly continued claim for each week you wish to claim benefits. Failure to file your claim on a timely basis will result in a loss of benefits. Claims must be filed within fourteen days of the week ending date. Claims can be filed by telephone or internet. Each time you claim a week of benefits you are certifying your answers are true and complete. A false answer may be deemed to be fraud; you could be overpaid and denied future benefits.

There are Penalties for Fraud

Each time you claim a week of benefits, you are certifying that your answers are true and complete. Claiming benefits for someone other than yourself, failure to report information or reporting false information to receive benefits is deemed to be fraud against the State of Oklahoma. Fraud could result in a denial of benefits, an overpayment and possibly incarceration.

You Must Notify the Commission if You Do Not Return to Work as Scheduled

Failure to return to work on the date scheduled by the employer or to return to the job when contacted by the employer may result in a loss of benefits and an overpayment. Benefits are being paid as a result of a return to work date established by the employer. If you do not return to work on that date or before, you must contact the Unemployment Insurance Service Center and a determination will be made based on that failure.

Information on TAA/TRA Eligibility

Workers whose employment is adversely affected by increased imports may apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). TAA may include training, job search allowance, relocation allowance and weekly TRA benefits, if enrolled in a TAA federally approved training course following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits. There are definite time limits to apply for these benefits and you should contact the Unemployment Insurance Service Center or the Workforce Center in your area to determine whether or not you may be eligible.

Aliens Must Have Right to Work in the United States

Aliens must have authorization to work in the United States in order to be eligible for unemployment benefits. If you are not a U.S. citizen, your alien status will be verified through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. You may be asked to provide a copy of the front and back of your alien registration card so your work authorization can be verified. Failure to provide the requested documentation will result in a denial of benefits. You will be contacted by mail if you are required to provide documentation.

Payments are Made By Direct Deposit or Debit Card

Unemployment Insurance payments are issued either to a debit card or by direct deposit. If you choose to receive a debit card no action is necessary on your part. However, if you wish to have your payments direct deposited into your bank account you must call 1-866-320-8699. This will be a toll free call. You cannot set up the direct deposit until the next business day after filing your claim for benefits. You may also access the direct deposit form at www.eppicard.com/okedcuiclient/pdf/OKUI_DD_Form.pdf. If you do not set up your direct deposit before a payment is made a debit card will be sent to you. Debit cards are sent to you within 7-10 days after your eligibility is established.

You Must Provide True and Correct Answers to Questions

You will be required to certify that the answers you have given to all questions are true and correct to the best of your knowledge and that no information has been intentionally withheld or misrepresented in an attempt to obtain benefits to which you are not entitled.