

Tips & Advice

Issue XIII

FRADULENT UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

Criminals are continuing to take advantage of the situation that has been created by the coronavirus/COVID-19 Pandemic. A surge in unemployment numbers likewise means an increase in fraudulent unemployment claims. Below is a list of steps provided by the Oklahoma Bankers Association that an individual should take in they are a victim of a fraudulent unemployment claim:

To Report a Fraudulent Claim as Individual

Step 1: Email the OESC at fraud@oesc.state.ok.us and also the OESC supervisor at crystal.anglin@oesc.state.ok.us. Include your name, the claim number (if it appeared on the information you received) and your email address. Scan and attach any documentation. OESC will immediately put a STOP on any reported claim.

Step 2: If you have received any Way2Go cards from the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, notify your bank that you received them. After notifying OESC and your company's HR Department, it's important to destroy the cards.

Step 3: Check with your financial institution and credit card companies to ensure your personal information has not been compromised further. You may also obtain a free copy of your credit report from <https://www.ftc.gov/faq/consumer-protection/get-my-free-credit-report>.

Step 4: Consider filing a credit freeze or extended fraud alert because you are a victim of ID theft. Details on both, as well as how to file, can be found at www.consumer.ftc.gov.

Step 5: The Oklahoma attorney general has also created a form he encourages you to complete to report unemployment fraud. Information can be found at <http://www.oag.ok.gov/attorney-general-hunter-launches-new-effort-to-assist-victims-of-unemployment-fraud>. At the bottom of that page you will see "to access the form, click here," where you will access the form.

Also, be wary of any "work from home" advertisements you see online or on social media. Many of these are scams, and any checks you receive from these "jobs" are very likely forged checks or money obtained from illegal activities, and depositing these funds into your account, or cashing these checks could impose legal or financial liabilities on you. Contact us for more information on work at home and/or unemployment scams.



Member F.D.I.C.

Sources: OBA Fraud Alert – May 14, 2020

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