

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE Claimant Handbook

A Claimant's Guide to the Requirements of the Idaho Employment Security Law

IMPORTANT

Read this book carefully or have someone read it to you. Remember, **you must read and understand** this handbook. A Spanish version of this handbook is available upon request.

¡IMPORTANTE!

Lea este manual con cuidado o consiga alguien quien se lo lea o interprete. Recuerde, que **usted debe leer y entender este manual**. Una versión en español de este manual está disponible.

This handbook is for quick reference and should not be used as an official document. The official citation of the Employment Security Law is found in Title 72, Chapter 13 of the Idaho Code.

Note: This handbook is intended for guidance only and should not be a substitute for specific legal advice. If legal advice is required, an attorney should be consulted.

Idaho Plays Hardball with Unemployment Insurance Fraud

People who defraud Idaho's unemployment insurance system face stiff penalties!

Individuals who defraud Idaho's unemployment insurance system will repay the entire amount in addition to penalties ranging from 25 percent for first-time offenders to 100 percent for third-time offenders, and they will have to wait a minimum of 52 weeks and repay fraudulently received benefits in full before obtaining future benefits.

Avoid the penalties and potential criminal prosecution.

- Accurately represent your ability, availability and work search efforts while receiving benefits.
- Fully and accurately report any weekly earnings you receive while drawing benefits.
- Always report quitting, losing or refusing any job.
- Discontinue applying to receive benefits after returning to full-time work.
- Don't use someone else's identity to receive benefits.
- Don't try to collect benefits while on vacation.
- Don't help someone else file a fraudulent claim.

Know the game plan and don't get caught out in left field!

For more information, see pages 19-21.

The Unemployment Insurance Handbook - Contents

Your Unemployment Insurance Handbook is divided into sections. Each section answers questions or provides information about the Unemployment Insurance program. The types of questions answered or information provided in each section are listed below:

Page	Section	Questions
5	General Information	<p>What is unemployment insurance? Who pays for it? What can I do if I feel there has been discrimination? Will my claim be audited?</p>
6-7	Questions and Answers	<p>Do I really have to know and understand the information in this book? Was unemployment insurance taken out of my paycheck? Are my benefits taxable? Can I withhold taxes? Can child support payments be deducted from my payment? If I am disqualified, which wages can be used to requalify? Can I cancel my claim? Do I have to report my earnings if I work in another state? If I am traveling, how do I report? Do I have to look for work while traveling? What if I run out of money before my claim year is up? Do I have to seek work if I'm returning to my regular job? Can Idaho Department of Labor give out information on my claim? Can you help me find a job? Can I use a calling card to call the Tel-A-Claim system? What is a waiting week?</p>
8	Eligibility Requirements	<p>What are the personal eligibility requirements? What is a base period? How much will I get and for how long? What if my monetary determination is wrong?</p>
9	Denial and Requalification	<p>What can cause problems? What are the penalties?</p>
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23	Restarting your Claim, Moving Changing Address	How do I get my claim going again? What if I move out of state? Why and how do I tell you I moved?
24	Miscellaneous Information	What is worker profiling? How do I get my 1099-G form for taxes? What is TAA/TRA? Reemployment and retraining for dislocated workers.
25-26	Work Search Record	Document work search.
27	Addresses and Phone Numbers	If you need to mail or call, the information is here. TDD phone number for Tel-A-Claim inquires. We're on the Internet at labor.idaho.gov/iw .

**To file for a week of benefits, open a new claim or reopen an existing claim
via the Internet, go to: labor.idaho.gov/iw**

The TEL-A-CLAIM phone number is: **1 (208) 334-4700**

In the Boise dialing area call: **334-4700**

Outside the Boise dialing area, call your local office and enter: **Option 7**

General Information

Unemployment insurance provides financial assistance to workers unemployed through no fault of their own. In Idaho, workers do not pay any part of the cost of unemployment insurance. Unemployment insurance benefits are funded through a tax on employers, which is collected by Idaho Department of Labor and placed in a federal trust fund. Money from that fund can be used for unemployment benefits and for no other purpose.

Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity program and does not discriminate in employment or provision of public service on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, political affiliation or belief. Language assistance is available to individuals with limited English proficiency. Auxiliary aids are available for any of the programs offered and are available upon request. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any agency policy or practice, you may file a complaint with the local office manager or the state's Equal Opportunity Officer at Idaho Department of Labor, 317 W. Main St., Boise, Idaho, 83735; or the U.S. Department of Labor, Directorate of Civil Rights, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210. All complaints must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.

The information you and your employer provide to Idaho Department of Labor may be requested and utilized by other government agencies with which we have information disclosure agreements. Precautions will be taken by such agencies to protect the confidentiality of the information.

Each claim is subject to review by unemployment insurance claim auditors. This is an in-depth audit covering wages earned during your base period, the circumstances of your separation, your work search and earnings on claim reports. Routine audits of claims are conducted to ensure that the information reported is accurate.

Protect your benefit rights.

Be sure to follow all instructions.

Read this information carefully and completely.

If there is anything you do not understand, ask your local representative.

Let us know about any circumstances which would keep you from working or looking for work.

Keep an accurate record of your work search activities.

Fraudulently claiming benefits may result in criminal prosecution and a loss of benefits.

Questions and Answers

Do I really have to know and understand the information in this book?

Yes. Failing to understand this information does not protect you from a possible denial. If you do not understand something or have a question about any of the information in this handbook, contact your local office. Your neighbors and friends may not have the right answers.

Was unemployment insurance taken out of my paycheck?

No. Nothing comes out of your paycheck to support unemployment insurance. Your employer pays for the entire program.

Are my unemployment insurance benefits taxable?

Yes. Benefits are fully taxable income. You may elect to have federal taxes withheld at the rate of 10 percent from your unemployment insurance benefits. Idaho state taxes are **not** withheld. We will mail a statement (Form 1099-G) to your last known address showing the total amount of benefits you were paid the previous year. The statement is mailed to you and to the Internal Revenue Service by the end of January each year. You may also obtain this information online at labor.idaho.gov/iw. If you do not receive your statement by the second week of February and do not have Internet access, contact your local office. Benefits paid on Interstate claims will be reported by the paying state. If you have questions about your taxes, contact the IRS or a tax consultant.

Can money be deducted from my benefit payment for child support payments?

Yes. If you owe child support payments, Health and Welfare has the right (through court order or agreement with you) to deduct a percentage from your benefit payment. (See page 24 for additional information.)

Can I cancel my claim?

You may cancel your claim at anytime by submitting a written request provided: 1) you did not misrepresent or fail to report a material fact in making the claim **and** 2) you agree to repay any benefits received. Ask us if you have questions about cancellations. Your claim is not canceled when you stop reporting.

Do I have to report earnings if I am working in another state while claiming against Idaho?

Yes. No matter where you are working, you **MUST** report your gross earnings while claiming benefits. We compare our records with employer records. We check Idaho payroll tax records as well as payroll tax records from other states.

If I am traveling, how do I report?

You may still call Tel-A-Claim or file your weekly claim online at labor.idaho.gov/iw. You should remember that if you are not in your local labor market area, you must answer question **4a: "Were you away from the area where you normally look for work?"** or question **4b: "Were you away from the area where you normally work?"** as "YES." No payment for this week will be made until you provide additional information on your being out of the area. If you are using the Continued Claim Report form, mail it to your local office. Addresses are listed on page 27. If you do not have a Continued Claim Report form, contact a local office for assistance.

Do I have to look for work while I am traveling?

If you are seeking work out of town, you must keep track of where you looked for work. You may be asked to provide the names and addresses of where you looked for work while you were out of town. We may also contact these employers to verify your work search. We cannot pay you for any week you are on vacation. **Remember, if you leave town**, even if you are on a temporary layoff, the primary purpose of your trip must be to look for work. You must be willing to accept a job in these other areas.

Questions and Answers (cont.)

What if I run out of money before my claim year is up?

Once you have qualified for benefits, you have a year, 52 weeks, to collect them. Unfortunately, you cannot file another Idaho claim until that existing benefit year is over. If you have worked in another state during the past two years, you may qualify for benefits from the other state. Your local office can help you. Sometimes when unemployment is very high, extended benefits may be available. You will be notified if extended benefits become available.

Do I have to look for work if I am going back to my regular job?

It depends on how long you expect to be laid off, how long you have worked for that employer and how many jobs are open in your area. You must look for work unless you are instructed not to.

Can Idaho Department of Labor give out information about my claim?

We have very strict rules about releasing information. Certain state and federal agencies can get information but only what they need to do their job. The Department may be required by law to share all claim information with each interested party. Former employers may be an interested party. We **will not** give information to your friends, family or anyone else unless you give us written permission to do so.

Can you help me find a job?

Yes. Every local Idaho Department of Labor office has a job placement service to help you find a job in your area. They also have a listing of jobs throughout the state and nation. Ask your local Idaho Department of Labor consultant about job skill testing, how to look for work, how to write a resume and available training programs. You may check available jobs by going online at labor.idaho.gov/iw.

Can I use a calling card to call the Tel-A-Claim system?

Yes, however, we have found that some calling cards do not work with Tel-A-Claim. This is because the phone call goes over the network of the company through which the calling card was purchased, and sometimes that system uses the # key to denote end of call, start of another call and other options. So, when you depress the # key after entering wages, the calling card network intercepts this signal first and disconnects the Tel-A-Claim call in progress. Before purchasing a calling card for use with Tel-A-Claim, please check with the company to make sure that the # key will work as expected during a Tel-A-Claim call. **The preferred method for filing your weekly claim is via the Internet through our Web site: labor.idaho.gov/iw.**

What is a waiting week?

After you establish your claim for unemployment insurance benefits, the first week you file a weekly report and meet all the eligibility requirements will be considered your WAITING WEEK. You will not be paid for the waiting week, but you must file a weekly report to get credit for the waiting week. If you earn more than 1 ½ times your weekly benefit amount in any week, then that week does not qualify as a waiting week, nor does it qualify for a benefit payment. If this happens, the next week reported on your claim that meets all eligibility requirements will be counted as your waiting week. You serve only one waiting week per benefit year.

Do I need to make a weekly report while I am waiting for a determination of eligibility?

Yes. Although you will not receive payment for weeks claimed until your eligibility has been established, you must make a timely report for each week for which you are requesting payment. If you are found eligible, you will be paid for the weeks claimed after the eligibility determination has been processed.

I was denied benefits for a job separation. Can I use earnings from self-employment to satisfy that disqualification and requalify for benefits in the future?

If you lose your job and unemployment benefits are denied because you were separated for cause or because you refused another job, you must build a new earnings record to qualify for benefits in the future, and usually self-employment can be used to requalify. You must provide proof of the income earned from self-employment. During Extended Benefits, the wages used to requalify from a benefit denial must be earned in an employer-employee relationship.

Eligibility Requirements

Like other types of insurance, the unemployment insurance program requires that you meet certain conditions before qualifying to receive payment. To qualify, you must meet both **personal** and **monetary** eligibility requirements.

Personal Eligibility

Each week you claim, you must do certain things to receive a payment. You must be **ready, willing and able** to take any offer of suitable work. To be eligible, you must be:

ABLE TO WORK: You must be physically able to work full-time. Tell your local office if you cannot work because of illness, injury or some other physical or mental condition. Most health problems will not affect your claim as long as you are looking for the type of full-time work you can do. You may be disqualified if you have to refuse work due to illness.

AVAILABLE FOR WORK: You must be ready to go to work. You cannot place unrealistic personal restrictions on such things as the hours you will work, the pay you will accept, locations you prefer to work and jobs you will take. You must be willing and able to accept both full-time and part-time work in jobs you can do during all the usual hours and days these jobs are done. Limiting shifts, days or distance you will travel to work can make you ineligible. Availability for work is VERY IMPORTANT. For example, you must have childcare arranged, a way to get to work and no other personal commitments that prevent you from accepting a job.

ACTIVELY SEEKING WORK: You must try to find full-time work each week in accordance with the work-seeking requirements you received when you filed your claim. This applies even if you are working part time. You must be willing to accept part-time work while waiting for full-time work to become available. **Actively seeking work means** you must personally contact employers who hire people with your job skills. If you cannot find your normal kind of work, you must look for any other kind of work you can do. You must expand your work search and avoid re-contacting the same employer every week. As your period of unemployment lengthens you may be required to look for another kind of work, accept a lower pay or search in other locations for a job. The local office can help you find work. Ask us how or go online at labor.idaho.gov and click on "Search for a Job".

You MUST keep a personal record of your job contacts. This must include the employer name, address, phone number, person contacted, date of contact and the results of the job contact. We may ask you to provide your work search record (in person or online) to verify your contacts. Keep looking for work as long as you are unemployed.

If Idaho Department of Labor offers you a job referral to suitable work, you may be denied benefits if you refuse to accept the referral or fail to make contact with the employer.

If you are job attached, you must maintain contact with your employer and return as soon as work becomes available. If you have not been required to make work search contacts because you have a date to return to work or you obtain work through a union, you must notify your local office if these conditions no longer apply.

OUT OF WORK THROUGH NO FAULT OF YOUR OWN: You must have been laid off due to lack of work, voluntarily quit with good cause connected with the employment or been discharged but not for misconduct. If your reason for separation is other than lack of work, a written determination regarding your eligibility will be issued to you.

Monetary Eligibility

Shortly after your new claim is filed, you will receive a statement in the mail called a **Monetary Determination**. This statement shows:

BASE PERIOD: The wages paid to you by employers who have contributed to the unemployment insurance fund during the regular base period (the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters before the beginning of your claim). The total amount you were paid in each quarter will be used to calculate your benefit amount. If you do not qualify using wages in the regular base period you may qualify using the alternate base period wages (the last four completed quarters before the beginning of your claim). If these wages qualify you for benefits, that statement will also show your weekly benefit amount and your total benefit amount. Your WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT is the full amount you may receive for one week of unemployment. Your TOTAL BENEFIT AMOUNT is the maximum amount you may collect during the 52 weeks of your claim. If you are eligible for benefits, your first payment should become available three to four weeks after you have filed your claim.

IF YOUR MONETARY DETERMINATION IS INCORRECT: You should immediately notify your local office if any of your wages are not shown, are not shown in the right quarter or if wages are listed which you did not earn. Gather your check stubs, W-2 statements, pay slips or other documentation and ask for a MONETARY REDETERMINATION. The Department will investigate your wages and send you their findings. If your monetary entitlement increases at a later date, or after you have stopped claiming, additional monies will be credited to your debit card or direct deposit account.

Important Note: Continue to file on your claim while waiting for your monetary redetermination. Any benefits you receive based on an incorrect monetary determination are subject to repayment.

Denial and Requalification

A denial may be imposed if:	Requalification may occur if:
You left work without good cause connected with your employment, were discharged for work-related misconduct or refused suitable work or a referral to suitable work.	You return to work and earn at least 14 times your weekly benefit amount and become unemployed again through no fault of your own.
You are not able to work, are not available for work or are not actively seeking full-time work.	You are able to be easily reached for referral to jobs, and you are willing to work part-time while you continue to look for full-time work. You must have adequate transportation, and have personal circumstances arranged so nothing will prevent your accepting suitable work. You must not place undue restrictions on your availability for work, such as demanding higher pay than is normal for the area. This is a week-to-week denial. It ends when you notify Idaho Department of Labor staff you are again able to work, available for work and actively seeking work.
You are self-employed as your principal occupation.	Your principal occupation is no longer self-employment.
You are unemployed due to a strike in which you are actively involved.	Your unemployment is no longer due to a strike.
You may also be denied if:	For the following categories, there is no requalification, because:
You fail to contact an Idaho Department of Labor office when directed to do so.	You are denied for each week you fail to contact the office. You may requalify for subsequent weeks if you contact the office and take care of the issues causing the denial.
You fail to participate in re-employment eligibility assessments or assistance as required.	You are denied for each week you fail to participate in a planned re-employment event, interview, or assessment. You may requalify for subsequent weeks if you report as directed.
You make false statements or withhold information in order to obtain benefits.	You must repay any overpayment, and you will be disqualified from benefits for 52 weeks and until the resulting overpayment, penalty and interest are completely repaid to Idaho Department of Labor.
You fail to look for work or fail to provide us with a record of your work search when requested to do so.	You are denied benefits for each week you fail to meet your work seeking requirements or fail to provide us with your work search record. You may requalify for subsequent weeks by resuming a legitimate work search or providing the requested work search record.
You are employed by an educational institution and are between terms, school years or during holiday breaks.	Wages earned as a school employee cannot be used if you have reasonable assurance of returning to work when school resumes.
You are an alien and are not legally permitted to work in the United States.	You cannot be paid benefits if you do not have legal authorization to work in the United States, or wages in your base period were earned when you were not legally authorized to work in the United States.

Weekly Filing Using Tel-A-Claim or the Internet

Three methods exist to file and receive benefits. The preferred and quicker method is the Internet Continued Claims system (labor.idaho.gov/iw). You file weekly using your computer or by coming into a Department of Labor office and use one of our lobby machines. This easy, fast and convenient system uses no paper, and you get paid once a week. No postage is involved. You will have to pay long-distance charges if you reside outside the Boise calling area and choose the telephone reporting method. Calls can be made during the "off hours" and only last a few minutes. The other filing method, the continued claim report system is described on page 16.

ESTABLISHING A PIN: If you already established a PIN for IdahoWorks, you will enter that same PIN for the Internet Continued Claims or the Tel-A-Claim systems.

If you have received services in the past and are in IdahoWorks, but have not established a PIN for using IdahoWorks, you must create a PIN in order to access the Internet Continued Claims or Tel-A-Claim systems. To establish a PIN, you must enter the month and year of your birth as your temporary PIN. For example, if you were born on 4-6-1958, your PIN would be 0458. Next, you will be instructed to enter the temporary PIN again and then to select a permanent four-digit PIN that you will enter twice. You will then use the permanent PIN you have created each time you access the Internet Continued Claim or Tel-A-Claim systems. Your PIN serves as your signature. You are responsible for all transactions using your PIN. **DO NOT SHARE YOUR PIN OR KEEP IT WRITTEN WHERE OTHERS MAY FIND IT!** You will be held responsible for benefits fraudulently claimed under your PIN. If you forget your PIN, contact your local office where a consultant will reset your PIN. Office telephone numbers are listed on page 27. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Remember your PIN. No one at Idaho Department of Labor will know your permanent PIN.

INTERNET CONTINUED CLAIMS FILING: To use the Internet Continued Claims system, you will need access to a computer and the internet. Before using the Internet Continued Claims system, you should carefully read and understand how to file a claim using the Tel-A-Claim system. The questions you will answer on the Internet Continued Claims system will be the same questions that are asked on the Tel-A-Claim system. **To access Internet Continued Claims, log on to:** labor.idaho.gov/iw and follow the step-by-step instructions for filing an Internet Continued Claim. When responding to the questions on the Internet Continued Claims system, you may change any responses given before submitting your claim. Once you have submitted your claim, your responses cannot be changed. If you need to change a response after submitting your Internet Continued Claims report, you must contact your local office. If you have questions regarding the Internet Continued Claims system, please contact your local office. The phone number is on page 27.

TEL-A-CLAIM FILING: To use Tel-A-Claim, you need to use a touch-tone phone. Rotary and pulse-dial phones will not work. Many phones are equipped with a switch that changes the phone function from pulse-dial to touch-tone. Cell phones will work with the Tel-A-Claim system.

WHERE DO I CALL? Call Tel-A-Claim at 1 (208) 334-4700. If you live outside the Boise dialing area, call your local office and select option 7 from the automated menu. Local office numbers are listed on page 27 of this handbook. If you live in the Boise dialing area, call 334-4700. TTY claimants may call Idaho Relay Service by dialing 711 and then providing the phone number to Tel-A-Claim.

WHEN DO I CALL? A benefit week begins at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, and ends at 12:00 midnight the following Saturday. You have seven full days following the Saturday week ending date to make your call to Tel-A-Claim or to file online.

Weekly Filing Using Tel-A-Claim or the Internet (cont.)

<u>Example:</u>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 (Start of week)	2	3	4	5	6	7 (Weekending date.)
8 (Call between 12:01 a.m. Mtn. time this day and	9	10	11	12	13	14 ...midnight of this day. Mtn Time.)

For example, let's say your first week runs from the 1st through the 7th. You would call Tel-A-Claim or file online during the week of the 8th through the 14th. The earlier you file, the earlier your claim is processed. **In order to have your claim processed on the same business day you call, you must complete the Tel-A-Claim or online process before 6 p.m. Mountain Time.** If you call or file after that time, your claim will be processed the next day. Claims made on weekends are processed the first working day of the following week.

WHAT'S MY PIN? To use the Tel-A-Claim system for payment or inquiry, you must use a Personal Identification Number or PIN.

HOW DO I CALL? Tel-A-Claim is available in English and Spanish, and it will ask you first to choose which language you want. The system will present you with menu choices. To file for a week, choose option 1. Next, Tel-A-Claim will ask for your social security number. You enter the number using the numbers on your telephone keypad. The system will repeat the number back to you and ask you to verify your entry. Tel-A-Claim will then ask for your PIN. After entering your PIN, the system will repeat it and then ask you to verify it. The system will now tell you that you are filing for a specific week and give you the week ending date.

Tel-A-Claim now gives you this message: "By using this system, you agree to have your answers become part of your claim record. You are certifying that your answers are true and accurate to the best of your knowledge. Under Idaho law, you could be penalized for giving false answers or for withholding information." Please stay on the line until all questions are answered and verified. **If you hang up before the system tells you that your report is complete, your answers will not be recorded, no week will be claimed and you will have to call again. Please wait for the system to tell you good-bye before you hang up.**

Tel-A-Claim now asks you the eligibility questions that you must answer for each week. To answer the questions, **press 1 for YES, 9 for NO or 0 to REPEAT the question.** A short explanation of each question or set of questions is given here to help you understand the eligibility requirements for receiving unemployment insurance benefits. Questions 1-6 ask if you were able to work, available for work and actively seeking work, as required. To be eligible for benefits, a claimant must be able to work, available for work and actively seeking work. The number of job contacts you must make each week was given to you at the time you filed for your benefits. If you are not sure of the number of job contacts you must make per week, contact the local office where you filed. The telephone numbers are listed on page 27.

Weekly Filing Using Tel-A-Claim or the Internet (cont.)

Tel-A-Claim QUESTIONS

1) During the week claimed, were you physically able to work each day?

If you were not able to work, you must answer "No" to this question. If you answer "No" to this question, we will require you to give us additional information so a decision can be made on your eligibility for this week. At the end of the Tel-A-Claim process, you will be instructed to contact your local office to provide additional information.

2) Were you available for work each day?

If you are not available for work, you must answer "No" to this question. If you answer "No" to this question, we will require you to give us additional information so a decision can be made on your eligibility for this week. At the end of the Tel-A-Claim process, you will be instructed to contact your local office to provide additional information.

3a) Did you look for work as agreed in your work-seeking plan?

You must seek work as you were instructed to by your local office. If you did not make the required number of job contacts, you must answer "No" to this question, and additional information will be needed to make a decision on your eligibility for benefits for this week.

If you are employer-attached or union-attached, your work-seeking question will be:

3b) Did you maintain contact as required with your employer or union?

A job-attached claimant must remain in contact with his or her employer and be available for suitable work for each week that he or she files. A union-attached claimant must remain in contact with his or her union. If you are no longer employer-attached or union-attached, contact your local office to update your work-seeking requirements.

4a) Were you away from the area where you normally look for work?

See 4c.

Or if you are job-attached, the question will be:

4b) Were you away from the area where you normally work?

See 4c.

Interstate claimants will be asked:

4c) Were you away from the local area where you are now living?

You must remain fully available for work. If you were away from the area where you normally look for work, or the area you normally work in or live in, during any part of the week for which you are filing, you must answer "Yes" to this question. If you answer "Yes" at the end of the Tel-A-Claim process, you will be instructed to contact your local office to provide additional information.

5) Did you refuse or miss available work?

If you were offered a job and had to turn it down, or if you were scheduled to work and for some reason did not work, you must answer "Yes" to this question. If you answer "Yes" at the end of the Tel-A-Claim process, you will be instructed to contact your local office to provide additional information.

6) Did you attend school or training?

Any week that you attend schooling or training, you must answer "Yes" to this question. If you are attending school or training and have not previously reported it, you will be advised to **contact your local office to provide additional information.** If you have already reported the schooling to your local office, you will not need to provide any additional information. Tel-A-Claim will let you know if additional information is needed.

The system will now repeat your answers to questions 1-6, in order to confirm that your answers are recorded accurately. If they are all correct, you will press 1. If there is an error, press 9 and the questions will be repeated. If you repeat the questions, you must answer all the questions as they are repeated.

Weekly Filing Using Tel-A-Claim or the Internet (cont.)

Question 7 asks you to report any earnings from regular employment and any separations that may have occurred from this employment. Income from employment must be reported in the week it is earned. Please refer to page 17 to review how to report earnings. **Report all earnings.** Include all **gross wages** for any work you perform during any week you claim benefits. This can include cash payment, commission sales, tips and gratuities, working to pay off bills, National Guard or Reserve drill pay and reasonable cash value of room and board, groceries, clothes or any other valuable consideration.

If you are not able to determine the exact amount you earned, you must estimate weekly earnings as closely as possible. If you do estimate your earnings, you must contact your local office when you receive the correct earnings information. Misreported or under reported earnings will be found in an audit weeks or months later and may result in severe criminal, civil and administrative penalties.

If you find yourself in a situation where you are working and not receiving pay for the hours worked, contact your local office for instructions on how to report. All hours worked must be reported, even if compensation is not expected. Refer to page 17 for the definition of work.

If you make a mistake on the following questions, you will only be able to change the dollar amounts which you enter. **If you make an error answering the yes/no part, you will have to contact your local office to make the correction.**

7) Did you work for any employers during the week claimed, including National Guard or Reserve?

If you answer "Yes," indicating you worked for an employer, the question continues:

7a) Enter the total amount you earned from all employers, plus tips, before any deductions were made. Enter total dollars and cents you earned during the week, followed by the pound key (#).

Example:

If you earned \$188.98 before any deductions, you would enter the following on your telephone key pad:
18898#

Example:

If you earned \$100.00 before any deductions, you would enter the following:
10000#

7b) You entered \$_____.

The system speaks back the amount you entered and asks you to confirm it by entering 1 for yes or 9 for no. Remember, your gross earnings must be reported as earned. Please see pages 17-18 for an explanation of how earnings may reduce your weekly benefit amount.

7c) Did you work full-time hours for the entire week?

If you are employed full-time during the week, you will not receive any benefits, regardless of the amount you earned. In general, 40 hours per week is considered full-time employment with a few exceptions. If you have any questions regarding whether your work was full-time, contact your local office.

7d) Did you quit any job during the week?

7e) Were you fired from any job during the week?

If you have separated from a job during the week for other than "lack of work," then you need to answer "Yes" to either question 7d or 7e. Any separation from an employer, except for lack of work, must be investigated to see if you still meet the eligibility requirements for unemployment insurance. **If you do answer "Yes" to question 7d or 7e, you must contact your local office.** If you have any question in your mind regarding what type of separation occurred from your job, contact the local office.

Weekly Filing Using Tel-A-Claim or the Internet (cont.)

8) Were you self-employed during any part of the week claimed?

You are considered self-employed when you are engaged in an independently established trade or occupation and are not controlled or directed by an employer in the performance of your work. Earnings are considered to be your gross income, unless you provide evidence of expenses which are absolutely required to perform your work and not common to expenses while working for an employer.

If you answer "Yes," indicating that you were self-employed, the message continues as follows:

8a) Enter the total amount you earned from self-employment, plus tips, before any deductions were made. Enter total dollars and cents you earned during the week followed by the pound key (#).

Example:	If you earned \$175.35 in self-employment, press:	17535#
Example:	If you did not earn any type of pay, press:	0#

8b) You entered \$_____.

The system speaks back the amount you entered and asks you to confirm it by entering 1 for yes and 9 for no.

8c) Did you work 40 hours or more in self-employment?

If your self-employment involved working more than 40 hours in the week, you will be considered to be fully employed and not eligible for benefits.

9) During the week claimed, did you receive any holiday, bonus, severance or vacation pay?

Holiday: If you received, or are going to receive, holiday pay, enter that amount in the week in which the holiday occurs.

Bonus or Severance Pay: Report the amount of the lump sum payment in the week in which the payment is received. If you are to be paid more than one payment in severance pay from an employer, report an equal portion of the pay for each week claimed during the period covered by the payment. See page 17 for more information.

Vacation: If you received, or are going to receive, vacation pay, enter the amount for the week(s) you are actually on vacation. If your employer assigns vacation pay to certain weeks, report your vacation pay during those assigned weeks whether you take your vacation then or not. If you receive a lump-sum payment for unused vacation time, report that amount in the week in which the payment is received.

If you answer "Yes" to question 9, Tel-A-Claim continues on:

9a) Enter the total amount you received before any deductions were made. Enter total dollars and cents followed by the pound key (#).

Example:	If you received \$100.45 in other income, press:	10045#
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9b) You entered \$_____.

The system speaks back the amount you entered and asks you to confirm it by entering 1 for yes or 9 for no. Your unemployment may be reduced if you have other earnings. Please refer to page 17 for an explanation of this reduction.

Weekly Filing Using Tel-A-Claim or the Internet (cont.)

10) During a prior week, you reported earnings. The following employer information is required.

At the tone, speak the name of the employer followed by the pound key (#).

At the tone, speak the mailing address for the employer; include street, city, state and zip code, followed by the pound key (#).

At the tone, speak the last date worked for the employer; include month, day and year, followed by the pound key (#).

11) This completes your report for week ending (date). Thank you for using the Tel-A-Claim system. Good - Bye.

MISTAKES: Remember that questions 1-6 allow you to correct a yes/no mistake. Those questions will be repeated for you and allow you to correct any mistakes. Questions 7-9 only allow you to correct a dollar amount mistake. If you answer questions 7-9 incorrectly, you will have to contact your local office to correct the mistake.

WHAT IF I FORGET TO FILE ONE WEEK? If you forget to call Tel-A-Claim for one week, and you wish to file for that week, report to your local office for information. The local office will gather information from you to determine if you can be paid for that week. Tel-A-Claim will allow you to skip one week of filing and still keep your claim open. However, **if you skip two weeks of filing, your claim will go inactive. You will have to reopen your claim. Refer to instructions on page 23.** You will also have to reopen your claim if you report two successive weeks of earnings over 1½ times your weekly benefit amount, in other words you earned too much money to receive unemployment insurance benefits during each of those two weeks. Idaho does NOT allow backdating to any prior week. **If you do not submit your weekly claim as instructed, you will be denied benefits for the period you are claiming.**

PAYMENT HISTORY: Claim information may be accessed online at labor.idaho.gov/iw. Click on the “Payment Summary” button. **Types of information you can access are:** 1) The date when your last payment was issued, 2) The amount of the payment, when it was processed and deductions from the weekly benefit amount, 3) The balance remaining on your claim, 4) Information on the last week claimed to see if it was a waiting week, whether you had excessive earnings, exhausted benefits or have an eligibility issue pending.

Using the Continued Claim Report Form

HOW DO I FILE? If, for some reason, you cannot use the Internet Continued Claim or Tel-A-Claim reporting systems, this section explains how to file using the Continued Claim Report form. The Continued Claim Report form is a card which must be filled out by hand and either mailed or hand delivered to the local office. This card usually covers a two-week period so you are paid once every two weeks. There is always the chance a card can be lost or destroyed. Please consider these things, and if possible, use the Tel-A-Claim or Internet Continued Claim systems.

FILLING OUT YOUR CLAIM FORM: Your Continued Claim Report form will usually cover a two-week period. The first eligible week of your claim is the waiting week and not a payable week (see page 7). The first two lines contain pre-printed identification data such as your name and telephone number. Please notify your local office if the preprinted information if it is incorrect. The Week Ending Date for Week 1 and Week 2 is preprinted. For unemployment insurance purposes, a report period is one week, and week ending dates are always a Saturday. Each week starts at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday and ends at midnight the following Saturday.

Answer the questions for each week you are filing for by checking yes or no. The questions are very similar to the Tel-A-Claim questions explained in this book (pages 10-14). Questions 1-6 are the same as Tel-A-Claim. See explanation on pages 11-12. Explanations about earnings and other income are on pages 17-18. If you do work during the weeks for which you are filing, you must list the employer's name and address in the section which asks for the "WEEK 1 EMPLOYER" or "WEEK 2 EMPLOYER." In the part that asks for "Last day worked this week (Mo/Day/Yr)," list the last day you worked during the week for which you are filing. If you separate from an employer for other than lack of work, check the appropriate box that asks: "If you are no longer working for any of the above employers, for other than lack of work, mark the appropriate box." Be prepared to report to your local office with additional information on the separation if it has not already been provided.

WHEN TO RETURN YOUR FORM: You must mail or deliver to your local office a properly completed Continued Claim Report form that asks for payment or waiting week credit, for a specific one-week or two-week period. When you submit a Continued Claim Report form, another blank form is automatically mailed to your last known address. If you do not receive a new claim report in the mail, please contact your local office for another claim report.

IF MAILED: Your Continued Claim Report must be postmarked by midnight on the 9th day following the week(s) being claimed (23rd in the example below).

IF DELIVERED: Your Continued Claim Report must be placed in a receptacle for that purpose or handed to an authorized representative of Idaho Department of Labor by the 9th day following the last week(s) being claimed (23rd in the example below). A claim report cannot be accepted which has been deposited under or through the doors of your local office.

Example:	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Week 1							Week 2							Card should be delivered during this period.								
Card report would cover Week 1 and Week 2																							

If you do not mail or deliver your Continued Claim Report as instructed, you will be denied benefits for the period you are claiming.

Please allow at least seven days from the date you submit your Continued Claim Report for process of any payment. Calling before the seven days have passed will cause further delays in processing. Do not assume benefits have been denied or that something is wrong because your payment does not arrive on the same day each period. If you return to work on a full-time basis or for some other reason you wish to stop filing on your claim, you do not need to take any special action. Just stop sending in your Continued Claim Reports and your claim will automatically be inactivated.

Earnings and Other Income

If you work during the time you claim benefits, you may continue to receive some or all of your benefits depending on the number of hours you work and how much you earn. **Your gross earnings must be reported in the week earned, not the week paid.** The wages you earn during a week for which you claim benefits will affect your payment in one of the following ways:

- 1) You can earn up to one half of your weekly benefit amount and still receive the full weekly benefit amount for that week. However, you must still report **all** amounts earned each week, even if gross earnings are less than half your weekly benefit payment.

Example:	If your weekly benefit amount is \$100 and you earn \$47 in gross earnings, you will receive a payment for \$100.
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- 2) If you earn more than one half of your weekly benefit amount, you will receive a dollar-for-dollar reduction for every dollar you earn over one half of your weekly benefit amount for that week.

Example:	If your weekly benefit amount is \$100 and you earn \$85 in gross earnings, you have earned \$35 over one half of your weekly benefit, and you will receive a payment for \$65 (\$100-\$35).
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- 3) If you work full-time, or if you earn 1½ times your weekly benefit amount or more in gross earnings in one week, you will not receive a benefit payment for that week. Full-time is generally considered 40 hours per week for most occupations. If you earn over 1½ times your weekly benefit amount for two consecutive weeks, you must reopen your claim during the third week if you wish to claim for that week.

Example:	If you worked full-time, or earned \$150 or more in gross earnings, and your weekly benefit amount was \$100, you would not receive a payment for that week.
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NOTE: To qualify for these partial benefits, you must work all the hours available to you. Money reduced from your payment is not “lost” but remains in your account for possible future use on your claim.

HOW TO REPORT EARNINGS

Earnings must be reported in the week in which you earn them. The information in this section covers the different types of earnings you may have and how to report them. If you have questions regarding how to report income or hours worked while on unemployment, contact your local office. The phone numbers are listed on page 27.

REGULAR EARNINGS: You must report your gross earnings during the week you earn them. You do **not** report the earnings in the week they are paid to you. If you work for an employer who uses a delayed payment system, keep track of your hours worked each week and multiply this by your hourly wage rate. This amount must be reported as earned during the week in question. **If you have claimed and reported earnings over 1½ times your weekly benefit and no unemployment insurance benefits were due you for two consecutive weeks, you will not be able to claim another week unless you have reopened your claim during that week.**

SELF-EMPLOYMENT: You must report all earnings regardless of their source. This includes earnings from self-employment as well as those earned in an employer-employee relationship. If you are involved in a self-employment venture, you should contact your local office for assistance in determining how to compute and report your earnings. See **page 13, question #8a** for more information.

HOLIDAY, BONUS OR SEVERANCE PAY: Holiday pay is reportable for the week in which the holiday occurs. For bonus or severance pay, report the amount of the lump sum payment in the week in which the payment is received. If you are to receive more than one payment for severance pay from an employer, report an equal portion of pay for each week claimed during the period covered by the payment. For example, the total amount of your severance payment divided by the number of weeks in the period covered by that payment equals the amount you should report for each week you claim benefits.

WORK: Time spent in all services performed for an employer, commission work, self-employment and volunteer work.

Earnings and Other Income (cont.)

PENSION, ANNUITY OR RETIREMENT PAY: If you contributed toward a retirement plan, the pension, annuity or retirement pay is not reportable income and is not deducted from your unemployment insurance benefits. Social Security retirement benefits are not deductible from unemployment insurance benefits because you contribute to that fund. Retirement income will be deducted from your weekly benefit amount if: 1) The payment is from a base period employer, and 2) the employer made 100 percent of the contributions to the retirement plan. Payments will be prorated on a weekly basis. For every \$1 of your deductible weekly pension amount, your weekly benefit amount will be reduced by \$1.

Payments and Messages

If you use the Internet Continued Claim or Tel-A-Claim system, your unemployment insurance payment is issued weekly. If you are using the Continued Claim Reporting system, see page 16 regarding payments.

Payments are issued as a result of your answers to the Internet Continued Claim, Tel-A-Claim system or the answers on your Continued Claim Report. If there are no problems on your claim, the payment will be issued within three to four business days of the time you submit your weekly report.

Please allow up to a week to receive your payment. If you do not receive a payment within a week of your report, contact your local office listed on page 27.

REMINDER: The first week of a new claim is a waiting week. You must meet all eligibility requirements and report for the waiting week to receive waiting week credit, but you will not receive payment for this week.

TWO WAYS TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS: Payments are issued as direct deposit to your checking account or as money available to your Debit Card that will be issued to you. The following questions and answers describe some of the features of direct deposit and debit cards.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

What is Direct Deposit? Direct Deposit is the electronic transfer of your Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit payment to the checking account of your bank, credit union, or other financial institution. Direct Deposit is a safe, quick and easy way to receive your UI benefits. It removes the risk of mail delays and lost or stolen checks. It also eliminates the time required for you to cash or deposit your check. When you enroll in the service, you are authorizing the Idaho Department of Labor to credit your bank account each time you file for and are entitled to receive benefits.

What information do I need to enroll?

- A valid email address
- Your financial institution's nine (9) digit routing number
- Your checking account number (up to 17 digits)
- (Your account number and routing number are on your checks OR you can contact your financial institution to verify the account information)

How long does it take for services to begin? Before deposit of your weekly benefit payments can begin, the Department must verify the information you provide. This generally takes up to 2 days. If there is a problem with the information you have provided you will be notified immediately by email. If you are due a benefit payment, a paper check will be issued.

When can I expect my payment to be deposited into my account? Payment will generally be available three to four business days after you submit your weekly claim. Once you have filed your weekly claim for benefits and all eligibility requirements are met, the automated system will transfer payment to the financial institution you have specified. Payments will not be transmitted on State, Federal or Banking holidays or on weekends.

What if a deposit of benefits is not posted to my account? Access our website, <http://labor.idaho.gov/iw> and click on the "Payment Summary" link to confirm that a valid claim was processed and no issues exist.

If payment was issued by the Department but does not appear in your account, you will need to contact your financial institution to find out when the payment will be posted to your account. If your financial institution has no record of the transfer within four days of the time you filed your weekly claim and you have NOT received any notification from this Department that an issue exists that is prohibiting payment (check <http://labor.idaho.gov/iw> to verify payment was made), you will need to contact your financial institution.

What record of my UI benefit deposit will I receive? Your financial institution will provide a record of deposits made to your account on your monthly statements. The on-line "Payment Summary" link at www.labor.idaho.gov/iw can tell you when payment for a particular week was issued.

Can I participate in Direct Deposit if I have a joint account? Yes. However, the Department IS NOT able to release UI payment information to other holders on the account. The Department WILL NOT involve itself in disputes regarding use of funds deposited to a joint account. The Department WILL NOT ALLOW any deposit of benefit payments to a 3rd Party account (an account on which the claimant is not a legal holder/signer.)

Must my bank be located in Idaho? No. The Department can deposit to most financial institutions. Before enrolling, you should confirm that your financial institution accepts direct deposits.

Can I deposit only a portion of my benefit payments to an account? No. If you elect to enroll in Direct Deposit services, the full amount of the payment will be made to a single account of your choice. If child support payments are being collected, they will be withdrawn first and the remaining benefit amount will be deposited in your account.

Can I still have Federal Taxes withheld when using Direct Deposit? Yes. If you requested to have Federal taxes deducted from your weekly benefits when you filed your initial claim, this will continue for the duration of your benefit year unless you change your withholding.

I'm not good with a computer. Can Department of Labor staff help me enter my account and routing information? No. To protect you and the Department, staff will not be allowed to assist claimants when they enter their direct deposit information.

DEBIT CARDS

What are the advantages of debit cards? Payments are automatically deposited on the debit card issued to you by the Idaho Department of Labor and your debit card can be use anywhere VISA is accepted.

When will I receive my card? If your claim has nothing preventing payment, you should receive your card approximately three weeks after the claim is opened. The card will arrive in a plain, white window envelope with a Fargo, ND, return address.

Do I need a PIN number to use the card? Yes, and you choose your own PIN when you call and activate your card. But remember -- your Tel-A-Claim/Idaho Works PIN is not the PIN number for your debit card.

When is money available on my debit card? A debit card will be mailed to you approximately two to four business days after you report for the previous week. If you submit your weekly report on Sunday, your card will have funds available beginning Thursday. You may review the payment summary screen at labor.idaho.gov/iw to confirm that your card has been funded. The date cleared column will show when funds are available on your card.

How long is my card good for? You should keep your card throughout your unemployment claim year. Your card is good for three years.

Will there be charges for using a debit card? Many transactions are free such as withdrawing funds from US Bank ATMs, point of sale transactions and withdrawing funds from a teller at any financial institution that processes cash advance VISA transactions. However, there are fees for some items. A list of fees will be sent

with your debit card.

Who do I contact with questions about my card? For more information about debit cards, visit our Web site at <http://labor.idaho.gov/debitcards> or contact your local Labor office. For questions about fees, lost cards or balance inquiries, contact US Bank's Reliacard Cardmember Services toll free at (866) 276-5114 or online at <http://www.reliacard.com>.

Overpayments and Fraud

OVERPAYMENTS: Benefits are paid to you based on the eligibility information available at the time you phone in your Tel-A-Claim report, submit your Internet Continued Claim report or turn in your Continued Claim report. An overpayment may occur if the Department receives additional or contradictory information relating to your eligibility after benefits have been paid to you. If, based on new information, the Department determines that you were ineligible for benefits you already received; you will be notified by mail that an overpayment has been established on your claim. You will be required to pay back the overpayment in full with interest at the rate of 1½ times the statutory rate. A repayment plan may be arranged for large overpayments. If you have an existing overpayment balance when you are again eligible and file for benefits, your entire weekly entitlement will be retained by the Department each week and will be applied against your overpayment balance. Offsetting future benefits is only one of many methods used to recover current and past due overpayments. If overpayments are not promptly repaid, aggressive collection action may be taken. Overpayments due to fraud are not eligible for offset.

WAIVER OF REPAYMENT: If you have been overpaid benefits, you may request that the Department issue a Determination of Waiver. The request must be in writing and made within 14 days of the date of mailing of the Determination of Overpayment. Repayment of the overpayment may be waived if you can show that you meet both criteria in example 1 OR both criteria in example 2.

Example 1: The overpayment must have been caused solely by Department error or inadvertence, AND made to a claimant who could not reasonably have been expected to recognize the error.

Example 2: The overpayment was a result of an employer misreporting wages earned in a claimant's base period, AND the claimant could not reasonably have been expected to recognize an error in the wages reported.

Instructions for requesting a Determination of Waiver are listed on the Determination of Overpayment that you will receive whenever an overpayment is established on your claim.

FRAUD: Engaging in any of the following acts is a felony crime in Idaho:

- 1) Making false statements while being interviewed regarding your claim.
- 2) Knowingly making a false statement on any of the forms or pages you fill out in relation to your claim such as misstating the reason for separation from your employer.
- 3) Failing to properly report any material fact or making a false statement when filing weekly via Tel-A-Claim, Internet Continued Claim or bi-weekly using the Continued Claim Report form;
- 4) Failing to notify the Department when you quit or are discharged from work or when you refuse work.
- 5) Failing to look for work when required to do so, but telling Idaho Department of Labor you did look.

Audits are routinely conducted to verify the information you provide Idaho Department of Labor while filing for unemployment insurance benefits. It is critical that you promptly respond to these audit requests. Failure to do so or failure to explain adequately any discrepancies noted could result in an unemployment insurance fraud decision and an overpayment. If such a decision is issued, you will be required to repay the overpayment along with a penalty and interest. You will also be disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits for the longer of one year or until you have repaid the overpayment, penalty and interest in full. You may also be criminally prosecuted.

Overpayments and Fraud

Collecting Unemployment Insurance Benefits Avoid the Pitfalls that Lead to Fraud

Unemployment insurance fraud is a growing problem. In 2004 more than \$4 million in unemployment insurance payments were paid to claimants who were defrauding Idaho's system. A new tracking system is in place to identify and catch individuals who commit fraud. Stiffer penalties take effect starting July 1, 2005. Avoid these penalties, interest, and potential prosecution by knowing what activities are considered fraud.

- **Misrepresenting work search efforts while receiving benefits.** You must actively look for work and report your efforts each week. Actively seeking work means you must contact employers who hire people with your jobs skills. If you can't find a position with those skills you must expand your search and look for other work you can do. You must also be willing to accept part-time work while waiting for full-time work.
- **Not accurately reporting weekly earnings while drawing benefits.** If you obtain temporary or part-time employment while accepting unemployment insurance benefits you must report the wages earned each week so your unemployment insurance benefits can be adjusted accordingly.
- **Continuing to receive benefits after returning to full time work.** Once you return to work full-time you are no longer eligible to collect benefits. Continuing to collect benefits could lead to monetary penalties and criminal prosecution.
- **Misrepresenting ability and availability while receiving benefits.** You must be willing and able to accept both full and part-time work in your field of expertise. Putting limits on the shifts, days or distance you will travel for work can make you ineligible for benefits. If you cannot work because of an illness, injury or some other physical or mental conditions, contact your local Department of Labor office.
- **Stealing someone's identity to receive benefits.** Stealing someone else's identity to collect benefits is a felony that will subject you to criminal prosecution.
- **Collecting benefits while on vacation.** A weekly benefit payment should not be seen as an easy way to fund a trip you've always wanted to take. If you leave the area for a non-vacation reason while collecting benefits you must continue to look for work and report your efforts. If you do take a vacation you must report that on your weekly claim as not being available for that week, and you will not be paid benefits during that time period.
- **Helping someone else file a fraudulent claim.** Assisting any individual in defrauding the unemployment insurance system will subject you to the same financial penalties and potential prosecution of the person caught defrauding the system.
- **Failure to notify Idaho Department of Labor when you refuse, quit or are discharged from a job while drawing benefits.** You must notify your nearest Idaho Department of Labor office if you refuse a job, quit or are discharged from a job while drawing unemployment insurance benefits so a determination of eligibility can be made.

REPORT FRAUD: If you know of someone who is defrauding the system you can report it anonymously by calling 1-800-672-5627. Fraud can also be reported on the Department of Labor Web site at labor.idaho.gov by clicking on the unemployment insurance link.

Overpayments and Fraud – From News Reports

BOISE: Last year more than 1,700 people tried to work the unemployment system illegally in Idaho.

In the recent past two Magic Valley residents were placed on probation after pleading guilty to fraudulently collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

And a new law going into effect this summer will help catch more cases of unemployment fraud, a state investigator says.

The two Magic Valley residents were sentenced separately on felony charges of “misrepresentation to obtain benefits,” an Idaho Department of Labor news release says.

Fraud is defined as willfully withholding information to draw benefits, said the unemployment insurance administrator in Boise. Fraud would occur in the case of a person who was fired or quit a job reports to the state they were laid off or lost the work through no fault of their own.

Ill-Gotten Money Not Worth Penalties

To the editor, Jefferson Star:

Just lately, I had an encounter with the employment office that wasn't very pleasant.

See I thought that while I was working I would try and collect a few unemployment checks for a little extra income. Don't get me wrong, I needed the money, but I guess we all do.

But, I found out that was not the way to go. Besides getting caught, they took me to court. So, it ended up that I had to pay the money back plus I had a pretty good size fine to pay and I ended up having to write this embarrassing letter to the newspaper.

So what I have to say is and what I have learned is that they keep things on record, and if you think you can get away with it, think twice because sooner or later, they will get you.

And you might be put in the same situation or maybe even worse. So the message I give to you is don't do it. You're better off.

A Rigby Claimant

Unemployment fraud draws local jail time

The Morning News

A Blackfoot man who said when he illegally drew unemployment compensation to the sum of \$2,310 he didn't know it was a crime, was sentenced Monday to two to five years in prison.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Man Pleads Guilty to Fraud Charges

A fraud investigation by officials from the Idaho Department of Labor led to a guilty plea by an Emmett man for illegally collecting unemployment insurance benefits from the state.

The Emmett resident pled guilty before Idaho Judicial District Court to felony charges of “misrepresentation to obtain benefits.”

The individual was found to have concealed weekly earnings while receiving unemployment benefits and failing to report voluntarily quitting a job during the time benefits were being filed.

The Emmett resident was sentenced to 180 days in the Gem County jail with 170 days suspended and one-year probation. The individual was required to pay court costs of \$500 and to make restitution to the state Department of Labor in the amount of \$2,439.

Compiled by Statesman staff

SV Man Pleads Guilty in IDL Case

Wallace: A Kingston man recently pled guilty in First District Court to illegally receiving unemployment insurance benefits.

Following an investigation by officials from the Idaho Department of Labor, the Kingston man entered the plea in Wallace.

According to the Department, the claimant intentionally failed to report weekly earnings while at the same time receiving unemployment benefits for a period of 13 weeks.

The First District Court Judge sentenced the Kingston man to 127 days in jail. In addition, he was ordered to pay court costs and will have to make restitution to the Idaho Department of Labor for the unemployment benefits the man received which totaled \$2,904.

Department officials said they actively pursue criminal prosecution of individuals who file fraudulent claims for unemployment benefits. They said such claims raise employer tax rates and reduce the funds available for paying benefits in legitimate cases.

The state has unemployment insurance investigators who devote their time to investigating fraudulent claims.

Protests and Appeals

You or a current or previous employer may protest any decision regarding your eligibility to receive unemployment insurance benefits. Your protest must be in writing and be signed. When a protest is filed and a new decision is reached, a written document will be issued telling you the reasons for the new decision. There are four decision-making levels. Decisions made at the first three levels may be protested by you or by an interested party.

DETERMINATION: The determination is the first decision made regarding your claim and is issued by Idaho Department of Labor, using the facts gathered by the local office.

APPEAL: The Appeals Bureau in the Idaho Department of Labor central office in Boise makes this decision. The Appeals Bureau may use some previously submitted information and will gather information, via sworn testimony, at the hearing. Interested parties participate in the hearings via telephone. Failure to participate in the hearing may result in the decision going against you.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION: This is the first appellate stage outside Idaho Department of Labor. Your protest to an Appeals Bureau decision must be in writing and must be mailed directly to the Industrial Commission. The Commission typically issues a decision based on the facts previously submitted.

IDAHO SUPREME COURT: The last appellate level for protesting unemployment insurance claim decisions takes place before the Idaho Supreme Court. Fees may be charged for filing a protest at this level.

If you file a protest or appeal:

Determination: A protest must be delivered to your local office or be postmarked no later than 14 days after the decision is mailed.

Appeal: You have 14 days from the date of mailing to file a written protest with the Idaho Industrial Commission. The protest must be taken or mailed directly to the Industrial Commission. Protests filed with the Appeals Bureau or a local office will not be accepted by the Commission.

Industrial Commission: You have 42 days from the date of the decision to appeal to the Idaho Supreme Court. Contact the Industrial Commission to obtain detailed instructions for appealing their decision.

At the first two levels of protest, you may represent yourself or be represented by an attorney or any adult of your choosing. At the Industrial Commission a claimant may represent himself or be represented by an attorney or any duly-authorized agent.

You should continue to file through Tel-A-Claim, Internet Continued Claim or your Continued Claim Report forms until you accept a final decision. You can only be paid for weeks for which you have filed a claim and have met all the eligibility requirements if a higher appeal authority determines that you should receive benefits.

Restarting Your Claim

If you have not claimed benefits for two or more consecutive weeks or have earned over 1½ times your weekly benefit amount for two consecutive weeks, your claim is automatically stopped. **To re-open your claim, go to labor.idaho.gov/iw.** If you do not have Internet access, please visit the Idaho Department of Labor office nearest you. The list is on page 27. Your claim is open the Sunday of the week in which you reopen your claim. **Do not wait until the week is over before reopening your claim. Idaho does not allow backdating the claim effective date.** If you have worked since last filing, be sure to have a complete list of accurate addresses of your employers.

If you move, please go to labor.idaho.gov/iw on the Internet or visit the local office nearest you to update your mailing address or to reopen your claim. Your work-seeking requirements may change if you move to a different area. If you are living outside Idaho and you move, contact (208) 332-3574 to update your address if you do not have Internet access.

Miscellaneous Information

RE-EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT: You may be required to provide the Department with your work search contacts or participate in an in person interview with a Workforce Consultant from your local office. You may receive a letter instructing you to input your weekly contacts for a specific week of benefits via the internet at labor.idaho.gov/iw. Failure to provide this information when requested will result in your benefits being stopped. The contacts you list will be verified with the employers. You may also be required to participate in an in person interview with a Workforce Consultant at your local office. The interview is designed to help you return to work in the shortest time possible. The Consultant may assist you with labor market information, resumes, and innovative ideas for seeking work. Failure to participate will result in your benefits being stopped.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAX LIABILITY: Any unemployment benefits you receive are fully taxable, provided you are required to file a tax return. You can elect to have federal taxes withheld from your unemployment insurance payment. The withholding rate is 10 percent. Idaho state taxes will **not** be withheld. It may be necessary for you to make estimated tax payments. Form 1099-G, which reports benefits paid, will be mailed at the end of January to your last address on record. The IRS will be given the same information. If you have moved, be sure to update your mailing address.

CHILD SUPPORT DEDUCTION: Public Law 97-35 requires us to withhold funds from unemployment insurance benefits in cases where a child support enforcement agency is enforcing either a voluntary support agreement or a court order to pay money for child support. The Department of Health and Welfare enters information directly into the unemployment insurance system. **Any questions regarding child support enforcement deductions must be directed to the Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services, at its toll-free number of 1-800-356-9868.**

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE: Trade Adjustment Assistance is available to workers who lose their jobs, or whose hours of work and wages are reduced because of increased imports. Benefits available to eligible individuals may include: 1) job training, if suitable employment is not available, 2) job search allowances to cover expenses when looking for work outside the area, 3) relocation allowances to help workers and their families move to a new area of employment, plus a lump sum payment and 4) trade readjustment allowance, which becomes payable when all unemployment insurance benefits have been exhausted. Forms and additional information can be obtained from your local office.

REEMPLOYMENT AND RETRAINING FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS: Workers unemployed due to plant closures, permanent layoffs or other long-term unemployed workers may be eligible for reemployment and retraining services under the Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act. Services may include, but are not limited to: counseling, testing, vocational guidance, placement assistance, on-the-job training, vocational classroom training and relocation assistance. Contact the nearest local office for more information to see if you qualify for these services.

WORK SEARCH RECORD: You must keep a detailed record of your work search. Idaho Department of Labor may require you to provide this information either in-person or via the Internet. Failure to provide this information when requested will result in your benefits being stopped. The contacts you list will be verified with the employers you show you checked with for available work. Falsifying work search contacts will result in a determination of fraud. Use the forms on pages 24-25 to record your work search activities.

Work Search Record

Claimant's Name: _____ Social Security Number: _____

	Place Contacted (Employer name, address, phone number, and email address/website)	Type of work sought	Date of contact and method of applying	Name of person you contacted	Possibility of hire
Week ending	1.				
	2.				
	3.				
Week ending	1.				
	2.				
	3.				
Week ending	1.				
	2.				
	3.				
Week ending	1.				
	2.				
	3.				
Week ending	1.				
	2.				
	3.				

Work Search Record

Claimant's
Name:

Social Security
Number:

	Place Contacted (Employer name, address, phone number, and email address/website)	Type of work sought	Date of contact and method of applying	Name of person you contacted	Possibility of hire
Week ending	1.				
	2.				
	3.				
Week ending	1.				
	2.				
	3.				
Week ending	1.				
	2.				
	3.				
Week ending	1.				
	2.				
	3.				
Week ending	1.				
	2.				
	3.				
Week ending	1.				
	2.				
	3.				

Idaho Department of Labor Addresses & Phone Numbers

(All 208 area codes)

Local Office	Location	Mailing Address	Zip Code	Office Phone
Blackfoot	155 N. Maple	PO Box 9, Blackfoot	83221-0009	236-6713
Boise	219 W. Main St.	219 W. Main St., Boise	83735-0030	332-3575
Bonnars Ferry	6541 Main St.	Rt. 4 Box 5745, Bonners Ferry	83805-8521	267-5581
Canyon County	4514 Thomas Jefferson St.	4514 Thomas Jefferson St., Caldwell	83605	364-7781
Emmett	2030 S. Washington	2030 S. Washington, Emmett	83617-9450	364-7780
Grangeville	305 N. State St.	PO Box 550, Grangeville	83530-0550	983-0440
Idaho Falls	1515 E. Lincoln Road	1515 E. Lincoln Road, Ste 13, Idaho Falls	83401-3653	557-2500
Kootenai County	600 N. Thornton St.	600 N. Thornton St. Post Falls	83854 83501-1147	457-8789 799-5000
Lewiston	1158 Idaho St.	PO Box 1147, Lewiston		
Magic Valley	720 Falls Ave	720 Falls Ave , Twin Falls	83301-5129	735-2500
McCall	299 S. 3 rd St.	PO Box 966, McCall	83638-0966	634-7102
Meridian	1090 E. Watertower Ln., Suite 100	205 E. Watertower Ln., Ste 100 Meridian	83642-6282	364-7785
Mini Cassia	127 W. 5 th St. North	127 W. 5 th St. North, Burley	83318-3457	678-5518
Moscow	1350 Troy Rd. Ste 1	1350 Troy Rd. Ste 1, Moscow	83843-3995	882-7571
Mountain Home	1150 American Legion Blvd.	1150 American Legion Blvd., Mtn. Home	83647-2333	364-7788
Orofino	410 Johnson Ave.	PO Box 391, Orofino	83544-0391	476-5506
Payette	501 N. 16 th St., Ste 107	PO Box 179, Payette	83661-0179	642-9361
Pocatello	430 N. 5 th Ave.	PO Box 4087, Pocatello	83205-4087	236-6710
Rexburg	1133 Stocks Ave.	PO Box 158, Rexburg	83440-0158	557-2501
St. Maries	105 N. 8 th	105 N. 8 th , St. Maries	83861-1845	245-2518
Salmon	1301 Main St., Unit 1	PO Box 990, Salmon	83467-0990	756-2234
Sandpoint	2101 W. Pine St.	2101 W. Pine St., Sandpoint	83864-9399	263-7544
Silver Valley	35 Wildcat Way, Ste B	35 Wildcat Way, Ste B, Kellogg	83837-2253	783-1202
Soda Springs	95 E. Hooper Avenue #20	PO Box 576, Soda Springs	83276	236-6711
Wood River Valley	733 N Main St, Suite C	733 N Main St, Suite C Bellevue	83313	788-3526

Claimants requiring TDD Service call the Idaho Relay Service at: **711**
 Our Internet claim filing page is at labor.idaho.gov/iw. Use it to open a new claim, reopen your existing claim or
 file your weekly claim.

To check on available jobs, labor market or other helpful information go to labor.idaho.gov.

State of Idaho
Idaho Department of Labor
Unemployment Insurance Division
317 W. Main St.
Boise, Idaho 83735-0770
Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300
I-77-506 (R-11-10)

FIRST CLASS MAIL

