

# Oklahoma Employment Security Commission



Richard McPherson, Executive Director

Kevin Stitt, Governor

**Representing Employers**  
David Adams, Commissioner  
Karen Hudson, Commissioner

**Representing the Public**  
Rachel Hutchings, Chair

**Representing Employees**  
Jim Quillen, Commissioner  
Trent Smith, Commissioner

Dear Employer:

I am writing this letter in response to the recent upswing in fraudulent claims. Nationally, there has been an increased amount of perpetrators filing fraudulent unemployment insurance claims. Unfortunately, this same trend has been identified in Oklahoma as well. It is believed that this resulted from data breaches from numerous entities. We want to put your mind at ease and assure you **there has not been a data breach within our agency**. Although we have not suffered a data breach, our agency has been targeted by perpetrators filing fraudulent unemployment claims using stolen identities and personal information.

The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) takes this matter very seriously and has been working on ways to resolve the issue. Some of the procedures we have implemented, or that we are close to implementing include:

- **IP Address Verification:** The IP address from which the claim is filed is examined. If multiple claims are filed from one IP address, those claims are flagged and investigated.
- **Mailing Address Review:** The mailing address of the claimant is examined. If multiple claims are filed using the same mailing address, those claims are flagged and investigated.
- **Address Change Review:** The claimant changes the mailing address of the claim from an in-state to an out-of-state address shortly after the claim is filed and before the debit card is mailed out. These claims are being flagged for investigation.
- **ID Verification:** In June, OESC will start requiring all claimants to report in person to a local workforce center to show their driver's license and Social Security card to an OESC employee. Out-of-state claimants will be required to report to a workforce center in their state of residence to register for work and to have their ID documents copied by an employee in that workforce center and faxed to OESC.
- **ID Authentication:** ID documents that are received from claimants in flagged cases that appear to be fake or otherwise suspicious are sent for verification to the Office of Inspector General (OIG). The OIG can check special databases to compare ID numbers with names and birthdates to verify authenticity of the ID document. When fake ID's are discovered, the claim will be denied.
- **National Verification:** The USDOL Integrity Action Center administers the Integrity Data Hub and the Suspicious Actor Repository. Certain patterns and repetitive actions that are indications of fraud are reported and indexed in the Suspicious Actor Repository. States can send claim information to the Integrity Data Hub to process through the Suspicious Actor Repository and if the information of a suspicious claim matches the profile or pattern of a previous fraudulent claim

from anywhere in the U.S., a hold can be placed on the claim and the claimant can be called in to provide further information to legitimize the claim. Claimants that fail to cooperate will have their claims denied.

Procedures like these continue to support the integrity of the unemployment insurance Trust Fund. Oklahoma continues to be a Top 10 state in trust fund solvency and number two in the nation for having an extremely low improper payment rate. Even with all of these procedures and processes in place, we need your help!

When you receive a notice of unemployment insurance claim, you are encouraged to respond as quickly as possible. This is especially true if you receive a claim on a person who is currently employed and on the job, or if the claimant was never an employee of your company. Many times these are fraudulent claims and should be investigated immediately.

**If you suspect a fraudulent claim and would like to report it, please email us at [fraud@oesc.state.ok.us](mailto:fraud@oesc.state.ok.us) or call (405)557-7164.**

Thank you for helping to reduce and prevent fraud in Oklahoma.

Respectfully,



Richard McPherson  
Executive Director  
Oklahoma Employment Security Commission