



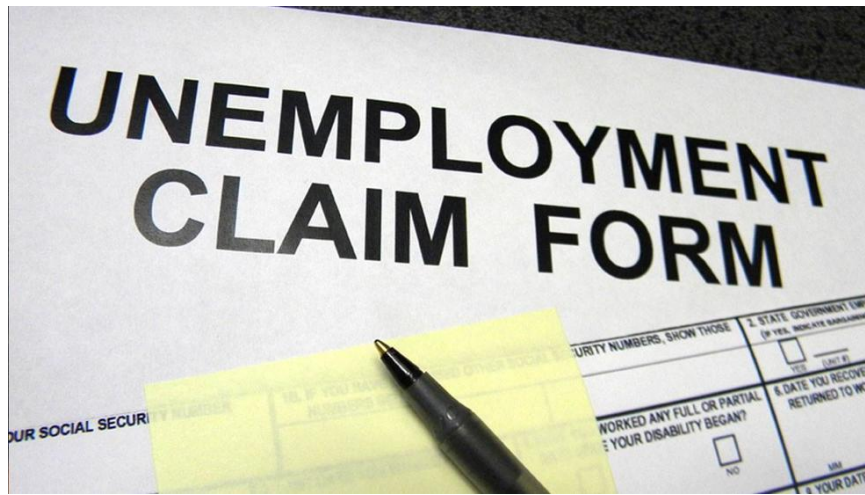
SCAM ALERT!

February 2021



MAT HECK, Jr.
Montgomery County Prosecutor

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FRAUD



As COVID 19 continues, there has been a high number of fraudulent Unemployment Benefits claims filed in the state of Ohio. If you believe that someone has filed a claim in your name, contact the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services as that is the only organization that can determine if a fraudulent claim has been made. That being said, here are some tips that can help:

- If you have received any of the following and you have not filed for Unemployment in 2020, you may have a fraudulent claim in your name:
 - A 1099-G tax form;
 - A letter from Ohio Department of Job and Family Services stating that Unemployment Benefits have been applied for in your name;
 - A US Bank ReliaCard for funds you do not recognize or were not expecting;
 - Notification from your employer that Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is inquiring about Unemployment Benefits that you did not apply for.
- If you received any of the above take the following steps:
 - Contact the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services immediately. Forms can be completed online at www.Unemployment.Ohio.Gov. Once you have filed the report you should receive a confirmation email whereby the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will investigate;
 - Check your credit report at www.AnnualCreditReport.com or call 877-322-8228. If you find anything suspicious, then contact the Attorney General's Office at 800-282-0515, or www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov;
 - Consider placing an Initial Fraud Alert on your credit report. This helps prevent fraudulent accounts from being opened and lasts one year. To do so, contact any of the following:
 - Experian: www.experian.com/fraud (888-397-3742);
 - Equifax: www.equifax.com (800-525-6285);
 - Transunion: www.transunion.com (800-680-7289)

If you contact one of these agencies, they will notify the others.

- Consider placing a permanent Security Freeze on your credit report. This will prevent others from opening credit in your name. It is free to place the freeze. Unlike the initial fraud alert, you must contact all three credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax, and Transunion) to do this.

If, in checking your credit reports, you find accounts that do not belong to you, contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office. If you believe it is result of a fraudulent unemployment benefit scam, you must also notify the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS IF YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING SCAMMED:

- Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office: 937-225-5757 and ask for our consumer fraud division.
- Ohio Attorney General's Identity Theft Division: 800-282-0515
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services: 877-644-6562

The above ALERT is part of the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney's initiative to help citizens become aware of ways they can avoid becoming a victim, or ways they can help stop criminal activity that may be occurring. Upon request, the office can provide presentations on crime prevention actions and activities to halt crime and increase the quality of life in our community.

If you would like additional information on the above ALERT, or would like additional information regarding our programs to assist consumers in general and/or seniors in particular, please contact Kimberly Melnick, Supervising Attorney, Adult Protection Unit, or Anthony Schoen, Supervising Attorney, Fraud and Economic Crimes Unit at 937-225-5757.

[Visit Our Website](#)

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