

FRAUDULENT UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS – HOW TO HANDLE THIS?

Many employers are experiencing fraudulent unemployment claims for employees who are still working and receiving a salary. If you have received a letter or email notice from ESD that one of your employees is filing for unemployment but you know that employee did not make a claim, your employee must notify ESD of this fraudulent reported claim. Below is the information your employee will need in order to deny this benefit claim. The denial then must be emailed to ESD.

We are including an example of an email to ESD below the required information. Once your employee submits the email, they will receive an email notice from ESD advising that the employee successfully submitted a report of fraud. (See a typical response back from ESD below the example email.)

DATA NEEDED BY EMPLOYEE TO GENERATE EMAIL TO ESD:

1. Your full name
2. Last 4 numbers of your Social Security number (never put your full SSN in an email)
3. Your address
4. Your date of birth
5. Brief description of how you found out an imposter-fraud claim was filed using your information
6. Please let ESD know: If an imposter-fraud claim was filed using your information, do you give ESD permission to deny and cancel it?
7. Email this reporting to: esdfraud@esd.wa.gov

EXAMPLE OF EMAIL TO ESD TO DENY A FRAUDULENT CLAIM:

Email to: esdfraud@esd.wa.gov
Cc: Mary Smith@hotmail.com (*employee's email address*)
Subject: Fraudulent Unemployment Claim

To Whom it May Concern:

Name: Mary Smith
SS# Last Four Digits: 1234
Address: 678 State Street, Seattle, WA 91111
DOB: 01/01/1985

I have been notified through a letter (or email) sent by ESD to *John Doe Dr's Office* (*insert the formal name of your employer who received the notice*) advising I reported a recent separation from my employer, *John Doe Dr's. Office*, due to Lack of Work (*or other indicated reason for separation as listed on letter*). This notice was sent on 5.5.2020 (*insert date*). This is an imposter-fraudulent claim as I am still employed by *John Doe Dr's Office* and am still on payroll. Therefore, please do not process this claim.

I therefore authorize you to deny and cancel this imposter-fraud claim.

AUTOMATIC EMAIL REPOSENSE FROM ESD--FRAUDULENT UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS DEPARTMENT AFTER EMPLOYEE SENDS OUT THE EMAIL:

You have successfully submitted a report of fraud.

Next:

1. We will lock the claim and it will no longer be associated with the victim's personal information.
2. We will review the submitted information and investigate.
3. When our investigation is complete, we will send a letter advising the victim of the actions we took.

Your patience is appreciated while we conduct this investigation. We will not discuss details of the investigation and will not provide updates.

Your personal information was used to file a fraudulent claim. We suggest you learn more about protecting yourself from identity theft from the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov or 877-382-4357.

RainCity CPA, PLLC