



OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0004

Telephone (515) 281-5834 Facsimile (515) 281-6518

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

**AUDITOR SAND ADVISES GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES
TO BE WARY OF FAKE UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS**

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Unknown parties are attempting to fraudulently file unemployment insurance claims with Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) as if they were former employees of certain governmental entities.

This Alert is the result of notifications the Office of Auditor of State has received in accordance with section 11.6(7) of the Code of Iowa.

Specifically, the Auditor has been notified by representatives of several entities they have received a claim notice from IWD through the mail which reports a specific employee has filed for unemployment insurance benefits. The notices include the name and valid social security number of an entity employee. However, the employees identified in the notices are currently employed by the entity and have not experienced any interruptions in employment due to COVID-19 or layoffs for any other reason. Documents shared with the Office of Auditor of State show that when the entity has appropriately protested the claim notice, a "Fact-Finding Interview" has been scheduled; however, the telephone number for the entity to participate in the interview is not accurate. The entities are continuing to work with IWD officials to ensure the fraudulent claim notices are being properly handled.

Auditor Sand strongly advises representatives of all governmental entities to carefully verify information received in any correspondence received from IWD regarding claims for unemployment insurance benefits. Specifically, all information on the notices should be carefully vetted, including the reported claimant's employment history, their social security number, and the wages paid to the employee during the base period. Additionally, Auditor Sand recommends immediately contacting IWD representatives of any notices of claims related to individuals who are currently employed by the entity or have not experienced any interruptions in employment. Additional information regarding ways to contact IWD is available at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/report-fraud>.

In addition, the entity should immediately contact the Office of Auditor of State at 515-281-5834 to report the suspected irregularity as required by section 11.6(7) of the Code of Iowa. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Office of Auditor of State at 515-281-5834.