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**Identity Theft Involving Fraudulent Unemployment Claims**

The Union County Sheriff's Office has received multiple reports of identity theft involving fraudulent unemployment claims the past two weeks. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services shared the information below to guide victims that receive notice from their employers about a fraudulent unemployment claim or a 1099-G tax form in the mail stating they received unemployment benefits in 2020 when they did not.

***ODJFS Issues a Record Amount of 1099 Tax Forms, Online Fraud Form and Guidance Available for ID Theft Victims with Unemployment Claims***

COLUMBUS, OHIO –The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will be issuing 1.7 million 1099-G tax forms throughout the month of January pursuant to federal law that requires reporting of unemployment benefits. There will be a number of Ohioans who receive a 1099-G tax form in the mail stating that they received unemployment benefits in 2020 when, in fact, they did not.

ODJFS has created a new online portal that provides a direct way for Ohioans to notify the agency if they believe their identity was stolen and used to file a fraudulent unemployment claim. Individuals who believe their identity was stolen and used to file a fraudulent unemployment claim should visit **[unemployment.ohio.gov](https://unemployment.ohio.gov)**, click on the “Report Identity Theft” button, and complete the reporting form.

ODJFS will issue confirmation emails to everyone who files a report with information about identity theft and protection. The agency will process the reports, conduct investigations and, if necessary, issue corrections to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

In addition to completing the ODJFS reporting form, ODJFS strongly urges anyone who suspects they may be a victim of identity theft to take appropriate action to protect themselves. For example, individuals can visit **[annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com)** to see whether they may be the victim of other types of identity theft. They also can visit **[OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/IdentityTheft](https://OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/IdentityTheft)** for educational resources for Ohioans who believe they may be the victim of identity theft.

Identity theft is a widespread national challenge. Many Ohioans have become victims, and their identities used to file fraudulent unemployment claims in both the traditional unemployment and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance programs.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.