

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION IN FLORIDA: Partial Wage Replacement While You are Out of Work

Who is eligible for unemployment compensation (“UC”)

Workers who are unemployed or had their hours reduced, and who earned at least \$3,400 in the last 4 calendar quarters before the most recently completed calendar quarter. Eligibility is not based on need. You may not be eligible if you (1) quit without good cause attributable to your employer or illness or (2) were fired for misconduct. If the misconduct was minor or unintentional, you may be eligible even if your employer says otherwise.

How much is paid in benefits?

Between \$32-\$275 per week for up to 26 weeks per year based on your prior wages.

When should I apply for benefits?

As soon as you lose your job or have your hours reduced. There is a “waiting week” for which no payment is made, and it takes 3 to 4 weeks to receive your first check.

Where do I apply for benefits?

Apply online at www.fluidnow.com or by calling 800-204-2418. You can obtain a paper application at your local WorkSource Career Services office and apply by fax or mail as directed on the application.

What do I need to file a claim?

Your social security number (or alien registration number and work permit expiration date), the names, addresses and phone numbers of all your employers during the last 18 months, the dates you worked and total earning for each employer, your driver license, state ID, voter registration or other ID. If you were recently in the military, you will need your DD-214. If you were a federal employee, you will need Form SF-50 or Form SF-8 and check stubs or W-2.

What happens after I apply?

Within 7-14 days after filing, you should receive a Wage Transcript showing your past wages and UC benefit amount. Check the Wage Transcript for accuracy and promptly report errors. You should also receive a Notice of Determination stating whether or not you are eligible for benefits. If you are denied, the Notice will state the reason and give instructions on how to appeal.

IMPORTANT APPEAL INFORMATION

Many workers who deserve benefits are wrongly denied when they first apply. You can appeal if you disagree with the reason for denial. You must make a written request for an appeal hearing within 20 calendar days of the date of mailing on the Notice of Determination or you lost your appeal rights. Keep a copy of what you file and evidence that you filed on time (fax transmittal report, online confirmation number, certified mail receipt).

What is an appeal hearing?

An appeals referee conducts a telephone hearing to take sworn testimony from you, your former employer and witnesses to determine if you were correctly denied benefits. **THIS IS NOT JUST A CONVERSATION!** This and all future appeal decisions are based on the evidence at the telephone hearing. It is important that evidence on your behalf be properly presented and legal arguments made.

Do I need a lawyer for the hearing?

No, but legal representation can increase your chances of winning. Three Rivers Legal Services provides free legal advice and representation to qualified applicants. It is important that you contact us as soon as you are denied benefits.

When do benefits end?

If you fail to make biweekly reports, fail to seek work each week, are not able or available to work, fail to accept a suitable job, accept a job, or exhaust your benefits.

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND TEACH YOUR CO-WORKERS ABOUT THEIRS
Where can I get help?**

WorkSource Career Services (Call 1-800-356-5627 for locations)