

How to Report Unemployment Compensation Fraud

Step One: Report Identity Theft to ODJFS

[Complete this online 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) on 1099s issued to victims.

Step Two: File Your Taxes

ODJFS recommends that you follow the following tax-filing guidance regarding identity theft from:

[U.S. Internal Revenue Service \(federal taxes\)](#)

[Ohio Department of Taxation \(state taxes\)](#)

Step Three: Protect Your Identity

Many resources are available for victims of identity theft to help them protect their identities. ODJFS strongly urges anyone who suspects they may be a victim of identity theft to take appropriate action to protect themselves. Here are some resources we recommend:

OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/IdentityTheft

Review your credit report at AnnualCreditReport.com

[Ohio Department of Public Safety Resources](#)

Federal Trade Commission Resources at identitytheft.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I received a TEXT message from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services needing to take some type of action.

A: The only text messages that an individual will receive are in response to initiating the weekly filing option by texting the word **START to 36230** to claim their weeks, or if a claimant requests a one-time passcode (by text or email) when authenticating. The claimant would have initiated the text interactions in both instances.

Q: I received a 1099-G from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, but I never applied for unemployment in 2020.

A: Please [file a report to ODJFS here](#). After you submit a report, we will process it, conduct an investigation and, if necessary, issue a correction to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). We also recommend that you visit annualcreditreport.com to see whether you may be the victim of other types of identity theft. In addition, OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/IdentityTheft has educational resources for Ohioans who believe they may be the victim of identity theft.

Q: Will I be responsible for paying taxes on benefits I never received?

A: If you did not apply for unemployment benefits in 2020 and you received a 1099-G form, you will not be responsible for paying taxes on that money after ODJFS confirms that the claim filed was fraudulent. It is very important for anyone suspecting that their identity was used to apply for fraudulent claims to [complete this online form](#) as soon as possible.

Q: I received a 1099 form stating that I received unemployment benefits in a state other than Ohio. Can your office still help me?

A: Unfortunately, we can only help with claims filed in Ohio. Please contact the unemployment office that issued you the form.

Q: I already reported that my identity was stolen and used to file an Ohio unemployment claim. Why did I still receive a 1099?

A: We are working as quickly as we can to process a record number of fraudulent unemployment claims. Even if you previously reported unemployment fraud, please [complete this online form](#). We will then send you a confirmation email with resources for victims of identity theft, process your report, conduct an investigation and, if necessary, issue a correction to the IRS.