

South Dakota Department of Labor
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Labor Department investigators look for unemployment fraud

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) has hired three investigators to verify the eligibility of unemployment insurance claimants filing for benefit payments. The investigators are state employees funded by the federal government.

In order to be eligible for unemployment benefits, claimants must be unemployed, able to work, looking for new work and cannot refuse suitable work when offered.

“The primary function of the new investigators will be to contact employers to verify work search contacts and job offers,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “We have always had staff investigating on a continuing basis, but the new investigators were added because of the extremely high number of current unemployment claims.”

Claimants who misrepresent information in order to receive benefits must repay all the benefits fraudulently received. In such cases, they also forfeit the right to some future benefits. Blatant cases of fraud will be referred to the Attorney General for prosecution.

To report tips on potential fraud, contact the Benefit Payment Control Unit at 605-626-7649 or dolunemploymentfraud@state.sd.us

Unemployment insurance provides temporary financial assistance for people who have lost their jobs, through no fault of their own, until they find other employment. South Dakota's unemployment insurance program is financed by employers through payroll taxes. Workers do not contribute to this plan.