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Videos Help Improve Claimant Compliance

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) has created two videos to help unemployment insurance (UI) benefit claimants understand the filing process and comply with established rules.

One video provides guidance on how to properly file a UI claim, and the other features tips on preventing fraud. Both are available on the DLR YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/SouthDakotaDLR.

“This is an effort to help educate claimants of their responsibilities and save employers money in the long run,” said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts. “Overall, our goal is to reduce improper unemployment benefit payments.”

DLR routinely investigates potential unreported earnings cases. It also looks into a wide range of other types of potential fraudulent conduct. The integrity of the state’s unemployment fund is crucial to its solvency and availability to people who are legitimately eligible for benefits.

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.

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.

“Staff investigate claims on a continuing basis,” said Secretary Roberts. “Last year, we found 3,347 overpayments totaling \$1.8 million.”

A U.S. Department of Labor grant for \$100,000 made this educational outreach possible. The grant is also being used towards other efforts in a messaging campaign. To report tips on potential fraud, contact the Benefit Payment Control Unit at 605-626-7649 or unemploymentfraud@state.sd.us.