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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Guidance for Employers and Employees in the Face of Increasing Fraudulent Unemployment Claims**

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis would like to remind everyone to be vigilant in the face of unemployment insurance fraud. Since the beginning of the pandemic we have seen a substantial increase in the amount of fraudulent unemployment insurance claims, both throughout the State and nationwide. If you see something that looks unusual or receive information suggesting you or your employee has filed for unemployment insurance when there has been no change to you or your employee's employment status, please promptly report that information and take all necessary steps to protect you or your employee's identity and credit history. The following guidance is intended to assist employers and employees in taking swift and effective action to minimize the damage caused by these fraudulent claims.

#### Employers:

- Notify the employee and inquire whether they have filed for unemployment benefits.
- Notify the Illinois Department of Employment Securities (IDES) and file an objection, if appropriate.
- File a report with local law enforcement.
- Provide IDES and any law enforcement or investigative agency with the information they need to investigate the situation.

#### Employee:

- Notify your employer and IDES (even if you believe your employer has already notified IDES).
- File a report with local law enforcement.
- Place a fraud alert or freeze on your credit report through one of the three credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.

- Obtain and review a copy of your credit report through [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). You may receive one free copy per week through April of 2021.
- Review your financial account statements monthly, or more frequently, if possible.
- Consider placing financial alerts on your savings or checking accounts, so you will be notified of purchases in excess of a certain dollar amount.
- Be on the lookout for unusual activity or notices, such as a notice regarding a change on your account you did not make, and follow up with the business to correct and report the information.

**Resources and Contact Information:**

The following is a list of agencies that can provide more information and even provide assistance should you find yourself to be a victim of a fraudulent unemployment insurance claim.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
<b>IDES</b>	Contact IDES promptly regarding suspected unemployment insurance fraud. IDES has a webpage dedicated to IDES fraud questions and information.	<a href="https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/ReportingUnemploymentInsuranceFraud.aspx">https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/ReportingUnemployment Insurance Fraud.aspx</a>	1-800-814-0513. Select option #1 for claimants, and; Select option #5 to <b>report identity theft.</b>
<b>Consumer Fraud Bureau:</b>	This is the branch of the Illinois Attorney General’s Office which assists individuals in avoiding and recovering financially from Identify Theft. The Bureau has a staffed consumer fraud hotline and a collection of helpful resources available on their website.	<a href="https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers/hotline.html">https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers/hotline.html</a>	Identity Theft Hotline:  1-866-999-5630  TTY 1-877-844-5461
<b>Federal Trade Commission</b>	The FTC provides resources for consumers and Businesses.	<a href="https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft">https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft</a>	1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)  TTY 1-866-653-4261

**IDES fraud and identity theft are crimes!  
Please file a report with your Local Law Enforcement Agency!**