



Update – March 20, 2020

Alabama Department of Labor Secretary Fitzgerald Washington has temporarily ordered that relief be offered to employers whose employees must file unemployment compensation claims for weeks filed due to COVID-19 related issues. All charges will be waived against those employers who file partial unemployment compensation claims on behalf of their employees. These charges will be waived until further notice. ADOL is encouraging all employers who can file on their employees' behalf to do so.

This waiver means that employers' experience ratings will NOT be affected by COVID-19 related claims. "We hope that this additional relief to employers will help ease the burden so many of us are facing during this unprecedented situation," said Washington. "We are encouraging all employers that are able to file these partial claims on behalf of their employees." Employers will need to answer YES when asked if the claim is COVID-19 related when they file partial unemployment claims beginning on Monday, March 23, 2020. Any claims filed during this week (March 16 – March 20) will be addressed on a one-by-one basis.

For employers who are unable to file partial claims on their employees' behalf, ADOL recommends that they notify the agency that they waive their right to respond to any Request for Separation information (known as the BEN 241). The BEN 241 will still be mailed to employers, however they do not need to respond to it **IF THEY NOTIFY US IN WRITING THAT THEY WAIVE THIS RIGHT**. Employers can notify the agency by: emailing Ben241waiver@labor.alabama.gov or by faxing 334-309-9098. The statements should be on company letterhead and should include the state unemployment insurance account number. **These methods of contact will be available on March 23, 2020.**

Both measures will expedite the processing of their employees' unemployment compensation claims. Unemployment benefits are paid with contributions from employers. Employees do not pay any portion of unemployment insurance taxes. These rules are subject to change. Information regarding partial claims and how to file them is available at: <https://labor.alabama.gov/uc/partials/uc-partials.aspx>.

March 17, 2020

NOTICE TO OUR ALABAMA CLIENTS

In response to the COVID-19 situation, Alabama Department of Labor Secretary Fitzgerald Washington has announced that the Alabama Department of Labor is modifying Alabama law to allow workers to file for unemployment benefits who are affected in the following ways by COVID-19:

- Those who are quarantined by a medical professional or government agency.
- Those who are laid off or sent home without pay for an extended period of time by their employer due to COVID-19.
- Those who are diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Those who are caring for an immediate family member who is diagnosed with COVID-19.

The benefits will be available for three weeks, and the maximum benefit amount will be \$275 per week. After the three-week period, if one is still out of work and needs to draw unemployment, such cases will be reviewed.

Additionally, the typical wait to receive unemployment compensation is being waived for the situations described above. These claims will be processed quicker than regular claims, which usually take up to 21 days to receive payment.

People being paid to work from home, or those receiving paid sick or vacation leave will not be eligible for unemployment, even if they experienced all of the other above situations. This is only for those who are not receiving any type of paid leave.

The Alabama Department of Labor will begin processing these unemployment claims on Monday, March 23. Workers can file for benefits online at www.labor.alabama.gov or by calling 1-866-234-5382. Online filing is encouraged.

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