

## Memorandum

From: Charles A. Ruggerio, Esq.  
General Counsel

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Re: Fraudulent Unemployment Claims

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Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the district is experiencing a record number of unemployment claims. Unfortunately, there is also an increase in the number of suspicious or fraudulent claims for unemployment benefits as well.

If you have reason to suspect that you may be the victim of a suspicious or fraudulent unemployment claim, you should take immediate steps to protect yourself. You should immediately contact Emily Johnson in the Legal Services Office ([Emily.Johnson@ppsd.org](mailto:Emily.Johnson@ppsd.org)) at (401) 456-9100 x11179. You should also contact the Department of Labor & Training's Fraud Unit at (401) 462-1522 or via email at [DLT.investigations@dlt.ri.gov](mailto:DLT.investigations@dlt.ri.gov). Finally, you should file a report with the Rhode Island State Police. They have created a webpage for unemployment fraud reporting: <https://risp.ri.gov/fcu/FUICI.php>.

Furthermore, the Department of Labor & Training has offered the following guidance as to next steps an employee should take when he or she suspects unemployment fraud:

1. Visit the Federal Trade Commission website with general information regarding unemployment fraud: <https://www.identitytheft.gov/#/unemploymentinsurance>. You may also choose to file a report from this website with the Department of Justice National Center for Disaster Fraud here: <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/webform/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>
2. Contact the Social Security Office at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) to report suspicious or fraudulent activity related to your social security number. There is a page with information regarding fraud and fraud reporting that contains resources for victims of identity theft: <https://www.ssa.gov/antifraudfacts/>. You can also contact the Office of the Inspector General's fraud hotline at **1-800-269-0271** or submit a report online at <https://oig.ssa.gov/>.
3. Protect your credit by contacting one or more of the major credit bureaus to report the identity theft:  
Equifax – 800-685-1111 <https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/>  
Transunion – 888-909-8872 <https://www.transunion.com/credit-help>  
Experian – 888-397-3742 <https://www.experian.com/help/>

Remember to always be cautious when sharing personal information including, your date of birth and social security number. If you have any additional questions regarding unemployment claims and fraud reporting, please feel free to contact the Legal Services Office at (401) 456-9100 x11179.

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