

What is Unemployment Insurance Fraud?

If you knowingly give false information when you claim Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, you are committing fraud. UI fraud is illegal and has serious consequences.

Here are some examples of UI fraud:

- You go back to work, but keep collecting UI benefits
- You work part-time, but do not report all the days you worked or all your earnings when you claim UI
- You work full-time, but keep claiming because the job is only temporary
- You work “off the books” or “under the table” while claiming UI
- You claim UI for a week when you have not looked for work
- You list employers on your job search record that you have not contacted for work
- You give your PIN number to someone else so they can claim UI for you
- When you claim, you say that you are ready, willing, and able to work, but you:
 - Are out of town or out of the area where you live and work
 - Are too sick to work
 - Do not have child care or transportation so you cannot seek work, go to job search-related meetings, or go to work

If you commit UI fraud, you could face serious penalties. These include:

- Having to repay the UI benefits that you should not have collected
- Not being able to get UI benefits in the future
- Fines
- Criminal Prosecution
- Prison

Anyone who collects UI is legally responsible for making sure he or she follows the law.

If you think you may have made a mistake when filing for UI benefits or have a question about your eligibility, contact the Department of Labor at 1-888-209-8124. UI representatives are available to help you.

Learn more at www.labor.ny.gov.