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Unemployment Insurance – Benefits & Eligibility

Unemployment insurance provides financial assistance for persons who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. It is intended to provide a temporary source of income while you look for work. Unemployment payments are financed entirely by an employer paid tax.

Division of Unemployment Insurance

DOL'S DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CAN DETERMINE IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS. PLEASE VISIT WWW.SD.UICLAIMS.COM OR CONTACT THE CALL CENTER AT 605.626.3179 TO DETERMINE YOUR ELIGIBILITY.

Eligibility

Eligibility is determined for a specific individual under specific situations. To be eligible to receive unemployment benefits, you must:

- File an application for benefits.
- Be totally or partially unemployed.
- Have worked for an employer who paid taxes on your wages.
- Have lost your job through no fault of your own.
- Have earned a certain amount of wages in the last 12 to 18 months.
- Register for work with the South Dakota Department of Labor.
- Be able to work, be available for work, and be actively seeking work.
- Be willing to accept suitable work when offered or referred.

How to File

To open a new or reopen an existing claim, call the South Dakota Unemployment Insurance Call Center at 605.626.3179 (or TTY 800.877.1113 for Relay Service) or visit www.sd.uicclaims.com.

Important Considerations

- You must be a U.S. citizen, registered alien, or have permission to work in the United States and be prepared to document your status.
- South Dakota will withhold child support from your weekly benefits if ordered by the court.
- Unemployment benefits are taxable. You will receive an IRS form 1099 which specifies the amount of benefits you received during the tax year.

- Many factors can affect a claim for unemployment insurance benefits. Your specific situation may be different from your co-workers. Please check with the Unemployment Insurance Claims Center at 605.626.2452 for assistance.

Claimant Responsibilities

- Serve a waiting week – first eligible calendar week after filing claim for benefits.
- Must be able and available for work.
- Must conduct an active work search.
- Be willing to accept suitable work.
- File weekly claim by telephone or Internet.
- Report any earnings.

Benefit Amounts

South Dakota unemployment benefits range between \$28 and \$309 per week. Eligibility requires a minimum amount of earnings in a “base period”. This period is the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters prior to filing the claim. Your claim is based on wages paid from an employer who has paid taxes on your wages. The specific weekly amount is determined by a formula that considers the wages earned during each quarter of the base period.

Workers who cannot establish a claim using the current base period may use an alternative base period. The alternative base period uses the last four completed quarters and is effective beginning July 1, 2009.

Delays or Reductions

Benefits may be delayed or reduced by an employer payment of:

- Vacation pay
- Termination pay (including sick leave paid at termination)
- Severance pay
- Wages in lieu of notice
- Similar payments

Wages earned each week of a claim:

- First \$25 not counted
- 75% of wages over \$25 deducted
- No payment if wages exceed weekly benefit amount

Appeal Rights

If you disagree with determinations made concerning your claim, you may file an appeal. The Unemployment Insurance Claims Center at 605.626.2452 will be able to assist you with the process.