

Top 10 Things You Should Know . . .

About the Reemployment Assistance System When Filing Your Claim



Reemployment Assistance (RA) provides temporary financial assistance to qualified individuals who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own and who continue to meet eligibility requirements of state law.

The program is not a right to all who have lost their job.

Keep these top 10 key facts in mind when you are filing for RA benefits to ensure accurate and quick payment of benefits.

For more information
www.floridajobs.org

or

800-204-2418

We're here to help.

- 1. Accurately Report the Reason You Are Unemployed**
Accurately report your reason for separation from your job when you initially file your claim for benefits. It is important that you provide the RA office with the precise reason for your separation so that we can best assist you and help you to avoid fraud.
- 2. Report Any Wages You Are Earning**
You must report your gross wages (before your taxes are taken out) for each week you work and certify for benefits, even if you don't get paid until later. Be sure to accurately report on all earnings during your weekly claim certification – even those from part-time or temporary work. If you collect more RA benefits than you are eligible for because you fail to report earnings, you may be committing fraud and may be prosecuted.
- 3. Register with the Employ Florida Marketplace (EFM)**
You may seek help in finding a job through EFM. EFM provides valuable resources that are available for your use, including job referrals, resume building and re-employment services.
www.EmployFlorida.com
- 4. Be Available for Work**
In order to collect benefits, you must continually verify that you are able, available and willing to accept suitable work. Possible conflicts like attending school during work hours or limitations with child care or transportation could limit your work availability and be an eligibility issue. Report such issues on your claim forms.

5. Actively Search for Work

You must search for work each week that you file a claim for benefits. If you do not search for work during a week in which you file a claim, benefits may be denied until you show that you are actively seeking work.

6. Develop an Effective Work Search Plan

Many Reemployment Assistance claimants do not have an effective plan for searching for work. The Employ Florida Marketplace is a great place to learn about different kinds of jobs, their availability, and how to get training. Visit www.EmployFlorida.com for more information and assistance with planning an effective work search.

7. Avoid Errors and Ensure Proper Payment of Benefits

To prevent errors in payment of RA benefits that may result in an overpayment, it is important that you read all of the information that is provided to you when you file your claim for benefits. Improper payment of benefits will cause a delay or denial of future benefits.

<http://www.floridajobs.org/job-seekers-community-services>

8. Don't Delay – As Soon As You Begin Working Again, Report Your Return to Work

As soon as you begin working, be sure to notify your state's RA office and stop claiming benefits if you are working full time. Do not wait until you receive your first paycheck to report your return to work. The RA agency uses state and national resources to track new hires, so it is in your best interest to report your return to work immediately to avoid the serious consequences of an improper payment.

9. Follow the Rules to Prevent Yourself from Committing Fraud

Anyone who collects RA benefits is legally responsible for making sure he or she follows the requirements set by state law. Failure to follow the rules can result in serious consequences. Consequences for not following RA regulations can include prosecution by government authorities, repaying the benefits with penalties, forfeiting a future income tax refund, losing future eligibility to collect RA benefits and a possible jail sentence.

10. Know Your Responsibilities and Ask for Help

As a recipient of Reemployment Assistance benefits, you have a legal responsibility to know and follow all rules and reporting requirements. Navigating through the RA system can be confusing. If you have a question about your responsibilities or the requirements of receiving benefits, your state RA office is here to help. <http://www.floridajobs.org/job-seekers-community-services/reemployment-assistance-center/connect-general-information/connect-resources>