I Filed My Claim
What Happens Now?
UI Finding

Within 7-10 days of filing your claim you will receive a UI Finding in the mail (see sample below). Among other things, the UI Finding shows your base period wages, your weekly benefit amount, and your bi-weekly certification day.
Certification Requirements

- Certify every two weeks to receive benefits.
  - You may certify online via the IDES website OR by phone using the Tele-Serve system.

- Certify on your assigned certification day: Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.
  - If you miss your regular certification day, you may certify on Thursday or Friday of that week.

- Report all gross wages earned during the weeks covered by the certification.
  - Gross wages are the amount you earn before taxes and other deductions are taken from the paycheck.
  - Wages must be reported for the week when they are earned, not the week when you receive payment.

- Even if you have a pending adjudication interview, you should continue to certify as normal.

Online Certification

Monday through Friday 3:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

- The best way to certify for benefits is online at www.ides.illinois.gov/certify.
- Follow the instructions to certify in your unemployment insurance account.
Certification Questions

When you certify every two weeks, you will be asked the list of questions below. It may help to prepare your answers before you certify. Your answers to the questions will determine your eligibility for benefits. Depending on the program from which you are receiving benefits, you may also be asked additional questions.

1. Have you received or will you receive holiday pay during the period of Sunday through Saturday (week 1 beginning date through week 2 ending date)?
   - If yes, enter the gross amount of your holiday pay (before deductions) for each week.

2. Did you work during the period of Sunday (week 1 beginning date) through Saturday (week 2 ending date)?
   - If yes, enter the total amount of earnings (before deductions) for each week.

3. Has your dependency status changed during this certification period?

4. Were you able and available to work each day during your normal work week?
   - If no, enter the number of days you were unavailable for work in each of the weeks.

5. Did you actively look for work for the week of Sunday (week 1 beginning date) through Saturday (week 2 ending date)?

6. Other than Social Security, are you receiving or have you applied for a retirement or disability pension?
   - If yes, has the amount changed?

7. Did you attend school or receive training?
   - If yes, did you attend all scheduled training courses?
   - If no, enter the number of days that you did not attend class.

8. Do you have a current workers’ compensation claim or do you expect to receive workers’ compensation for a temporary disability?

9. Has your phone number changed?
   - If yes, enter your new ten-digit telephone number.

10. Has your mailing address changed?
Tele-Serve

Monday through Friday 3:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
(312) 338-IDES / (312) 338-4337

Illinois Relay: (800) 526-0844 TTY or 711
Illinois Relay: (800) 526-0857 Voice or 711

Tele-Serve is an automated phone system that allows you to:

- Certify for unemployment insurance benefits;
- Check the status of your unemployment claim, and more.

The first time you call, you will create a personal identification number (PIN). Keep your PIN safe and secure. You will need your PIN every time you call. When you call, have the following information available:

1. Your Social Security number and your PIN;
2. Any gross wages you earned (before taxes and other deductions) during the certification period;
3. Paper and pencil to record any information given to you during your call.

After dialing Tele-Serve, enter your PIN and answer the automated questions. Do not hang up until Tele-Serve tells you your claim has been accepted.

Tele-Serve Menu:

Press 1: To claim weeks of unemployment (certify)
Press 2: To file an additional claim or to reopen a claim for unemployment insurance benefits
Press 3: To check the status of your claim (also to request Federal Income Tax form 1099-G)
Press 4: Establish or change your PIN
Press 5: Obtain general information
Additional Information

Employment Service Registration Requirement
You must register with IllinoisJobLink.com to receive unemployment insurance benefits. To register, you should create an account and upload a resume at IllinoisJobLink.com. IllinoisJobLink.com will help you find available jobs and training. IDES will inform you if you fit into one of the narrow exceptions to this legal requirement.

Work Search Requirement
You must be actively seeking employment to claim benefits. If you search for work at IllinoisJobLink.com, your work search efforts will automatically be maintained. Work search conducted outside of IllinoisJobLink.com may also be logged on a Work Search Record form (ADJ034F), which can be found at ides.illinois.gov.

Keep your work search records. You may be asked to share your work search records from prior weeks. Keep your written work search records for at least one year. If you have a pending appeal, keep your written work search records until the appeal is resolved.

Temporary Help Firms
If you were last employed by a temporary help firm, be sure to contact that firm each week for work to maintain your eligibility for benefits.

Return to Work
You must report your return to work to IDES immediately. Employers are required to report all new hires to IDES. These reports are used to identify individuals who are collecting unemployment insurance benefits after they have returned to work. Failure to report your return to work or all gross wages earned during weeks covered by your certification will result in an overpayment of benefits and possibly a determination of fraud. If fraud is determined, consequences could include the imposition of penalty weeks, and prosecution for state benefit fraud. You can report your return to work when you certify.

Waiting Week
The first eligible week of a new benefit year claim is a waiting week. No benefits are paid for the waiting week.

Partial Benefits
If your gross wages in any week are less than your weekly benefit amount, you may still be eligible to receive partial benefits.

Payment Methods
You can receive benefits via paper check (default method) or direct deposit. You are strongly encouraged to choose direct deposit. You can enroll in direct deposit when you file your claim. After certifying, please allow up to 8 days to receive your payment via check, or 2-3 days for direct deposit.
Re-Employment Services
Under federal guidelines, you may be identified as eligible for Re-Employment Services offered by various state and local organizations. If you are referred by IDES to any of these reemployment services, you are required to participate in those services. If you do not participate, your benefits may be suspended.

Adjudication Interviews
An adjudication interview may be required to determine your eligibility for benefits. If necessary, you will receive a notice by mail with the date and time of a telephone interview. Failure to be available for the interview may affect your eligibility for benefits. If you cannot be available at the date and time of the scheduled interview, it is your responsibility to contact IDES using the change of interview form included with the notice.

Appeals
You have the right to appeal any decision denying your benefits. If you have any questions about your appeal rights, contact IDES. If you filed an appeal, continue to certify for your weeks of unemployment even though you may not receive benefits until the appeal is decided.

Mailing Addresses
The U.S. Postal Service will not forward IDES mail. You may change your address, name or other information online at ides.illinois.gov or you may call IDES Claimant Services at (800) 244-5631.

State and Federal Taxes
Unemployment insurance is subject to state and federal income taxes. You may voluntarily elect to have either or both state and federal income taxes deducted and withheld from your benefit payments. Withholding is pre-set at 10% for federal and 4.95% for State of Illinois.

Confidentiality
Your claim information is confidential under the law. We cannot give claim information to your spouse or other family members. However, pursuant to Section 1900 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, any information that you provide to the Department of Employment Security in connection with your claim may be shared with your former employers or their representatives.

Claimant Services: (800) 244-5631 TTY: (866) 488-4016
Important Notices

Why IDES Collects and Uses Social Security Numbers
The Illinois Department of Employment Security collects and uses social security numbers (SSNs) in the administration of the unemployment insurance and employment service programs. State and federal law require the Department to use SSNs for the purpose of verifying the identity of unemployment benefit claimants. SSNs are used in the administration of the employment service program to verify that unemployment benefit claimants have registered for work with the employment service, as required by law. The Department also uses SSNs in the development of aggregate statistics. The aggregate statistics do not identify individuals or disclose any SSNs. The Department complies with the strict requirements set forth in federal and state law for maintaining the confidentiality of SSNs and protecting against their unauthorized disclosure.

TRA Assistance Benefits
Workers who lose their jobs or who experience reduced work hours and wages as a result of increased imports or the shifting of their jobs to other countries may qualify for additional benefits under the federal Trade Act of 1974 and its amendments (Trade Act of 2002 or Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act 2009 or Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011 or Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015.) The worker group must be certified as eligible by the United States Department of Labor. The benefits administered by IDES include income support, the Health Coverage Tax Credit and reemployment wage supplement for older workers.

Equal Opportunity is the Law
The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) administers programs authorized under the Wagner-Peyser Act (Employment Service) and Unemployment Insurance programs authorized under Title III of the Social Security Act. It is against the law for the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), a recipient of federal financial assistance, to discriminate on the following bases: Against any individual in the United States, on the basis of race, age, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, political affiliation or belief; and against any beneficiary of programs financially assisted under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), on the basis of the beneficiary’s citizenship/status as a lawfully admitted immigrant authorized to work in the United States, or his or her participation in any WIA Title I-financially assisted program or activity.

IDES Must Not Discriminate in Any of the Following Areas:
Deciding who will be admitted, or have access, to any WIA Title I-financially assisted program or activity; providing opportunities in, or treating any person with regard to, such a program or activity; or making employment decisions in the administration of, or in connection with, such a program or activity.

What To Do If You Believe You Have Experienced Discrimination:
If you think that you have been subjected to discrimination under the “Employment Service” or “Unemployment Insurance” programs or activity, you may file a complaint within 180 days from the date of the alleged violation with either: The IDES Equal Opportunity Officer, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action, 33 S. State Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603- 2803 or: The Director of the Civil Rights Center (CRC) U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room N-4123, Washington, DC 20210

If you file your complaint with IDES, you must either wait until IDES issues a written Notice of Final Action, or until 90 days have passed (whichever is sooner), before filing with the Civil Rights Center (see address above).
If IDES does not give you a written Notice of Final Action within 90 days of the day on which you filed your complaint, you do not have to wait for IDES to issue that Notice before filing a complaint with CRC. However, you must file your CRC complaint within 30 days of the 90- day deadline (in other words, within 120 days after the day on which you filed your complaint with IDES).
If IDES does give you a written Notice of Final Action on your complaint, but you are dissatisfied with the decision or resolution, you may file a complaint with CRC. You must file your CRC complaint within 30 days of the date on which you received the IDES Notice of Final Action.

IDES is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all state and federal nondiscrimination laws in the administration of its programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact the Office Manager of the IDES office nearest you or the IDES Equal Opportunity Officer at (312) 793-9290 or TDD (888) 340-1007.

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