



A Message for Mercy Health Volunteers and Auxiliary/Guild Members

Reference: Unemployment fraud

You could unknowingly be a victim

Scammers are taking advantage of high unemployment rates sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic and filing claims in the names of ordinary Americans.

Such activity is considered identity theft which could lead to legal and financial trouble for its victims.

In order to make sure you don't fall victim, here is some good information to have at your fingertips.

What to watch for if you've never filed an unemployment claim:

- Emails or mail from a state "unemployment division" or "unemployment department."
- A tax form, such as a 1099-G, in the mail. This is a federal tax form sent to claimants who received unemployment benefits in 2020.

If you find you are a victim of unemployment fraud:

1. Report the incident to [identifytheft.gov](https://www.identifytheft.gov), which is managed by the Federal Trade Commission.
2. File a report with your local police department (if the department will accept such a report) and keep a copy.
3. Report the incident to unemployment insurance authorities in the state where the fake claim was filed. In the state of Ohio this is through Family Jobs and Services which you can call at 833-658-0394 or go to <https://unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov/IdentityTheft/> for more information or to report on line.

Since this is something that could affect all individuals this message is being sent to all active and inactive Cincinnati Mercy Health Volunteers and Auxiliary Members. It is our hope that you find it informative and helpful if you would happen to be affected by these scams.

Thank you and Be Well,

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