

February 26, 2014

## **FLORIDA Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims Fraud Information**

### **Background Information**

The U.S. Inspector General's office is investigating a possible multi-state Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit fraud scheme, which includes **FL**, KS, MA, NM, NV, NY, and TX.

Unemployment benefit fraud represents a small percentage (roughly 2%) of all Improper Payments tracked by the U.S. Department of Labor. Typically, benefit fraud occurs when a person who is not unemployed falsely files a claim under his or her own name and social security number. An additional benefit fraud situation is one where imposter claims are filed by a person or persons who are using the personal information of other individuals.

Unemployment benefit overpayments and fraud investigations are a part of the State's daily Unemployment Insurance (UI) program administration. Recently, claims are being submitted to the State when, in fact, that person is still employed as hired and has not filed a claim. This continues to be an ongoing issue.

The UI agencies indicate there is no known data breach in their systems that would lead to imposter claims. The source of the personal data theft used to file imposter claims is not yet known, but it is part of the ongoing investigation by the U.S. Inspector General's office.

### **What is Being Done?**

Unemployment agencies are alerted of suspected imposter claims filed with companies relating to their workers. Once a company advises a state UI agency that the person listed on a claim is not unemployed and did not file a claim, the agency invalidates the claim and protects the client's UI account from any benefit charges. The imposter claim also gets escalated within the State agency and higher for a fraud investigation.

### **What Should you Do?**

**If you suspect you are a victim of Unemployment Claim fraud or identity theft, it is recommended that you visit the following website(s): <http://www.idtheft.gov> or <http://www.ftc.gov/faq/consumer-protection/submit-consumer-complaint-ftc> to learn what steps to take.**