

Table 4 - Reporting Returning to Work

Working? Report Your Start Date and Earnings Immediately for Any Week You Claim Benefits.		
Claimant Message Concept	Key Language	Supporting Language
<p>Unemployment benefits are intended as a temporary financial assistance for qualified individuals who are not working. Intentionally committing UI fraud by collecting benefits you are not entitled to can result in serious and long-term penalties.</p>	<p>It is against the law to collect Unemployment benefits if you are working and not reporting your earnings. That means any time you work (whether full time or part time), you must report this information to the UI office during the week you worked if you are certifying for benefits that week, not when you actually receive a paycheck.</p>	<p>You must report your gross wages (before 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 <u>all</u> earnings during your weekly claim certification—even those from part-time or temporary work. If you collect more UI benefits than you are eligible for because you fail to report your earnings, you may be committing fraud and may be prosecuted.</p>
		<p>Make sure you provide your UI office with accurate and truthful information about all weekly earnings and any other income you may have while you are filing a claim, such as from a pension. Providing misleading or inaccurate information to the state may be considered UI fraud, which is punishable by law.</p>
		<p>As soon as you begin working, be sure to notify your state's UI office if you plan to continue to claim benefits. Do not wait until you receive your first paycheck to report your return to work. The UI 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.</p>
	<p>If you intentionally collect more UI benefits than you are eligible for you are committing fraud and could be prosecuted.</p>	<p>Anyone who collects UI benefits is legally responsible for making sure s/he follows the requirements set by state law. Failure to follow the rules can</p>

		result in serious consequences that will impact you and your family.
		The leading cause of UI benefit improper payments is individuals returning to work but continuing to claim UI benefits and failing to report earnings until s/he receives his/her first paycheck. This is against the law and may be considered fraud.
	UI fraud is punishable by law. If you commit UI fraud you could face a number of serious penalties and consequences.	Consequences of committing UI fraud may include prosecution by government authorities, repaying the UI benefits you collected with penalties, forfeiting future income tax refund, losing your ability to be eligible for collecting UI benefits in the future, and may also lead to a jail sentence.
	UI benefits exist to help you while you are unemployed and searching for work. But you are required by law to report any wages earned during a claim week or weeks.	UI benefits are available to provide temporary financial assistance while individuals are unemployed through no fault of their own. But, once you return to work, you must report all gross earnings (before deductions) during the week worked if you continue to file claims for benefits. It's the law.