



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

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Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Unofficial Websites are Taking Advantage of Montana's Dislocated Workers**

The Montana Department of Labor & Industry wants to remind those who file online for their unemployment insurance benefits that the department's website <http://www.dli.mt.gov> is Montana's official source for services and information provided by the department, and [UI4U.mt.gov](http://UI4U.mt.gov) is the only place to apply online for unemployment benefits.

State services are free, but some external, independent websites may charge for a link to Montana's benefit application, or provide unemployment compensation information or assistance that may be false or misleading. These external sites have 'unemployment' in their title and may look official but are not.

The latest scam website is charging claimants a \$10 fee; once the fee is paid, the site sends claimants to the Department of Labor and Industry's UI4U website. Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly wants to warn Montana residents about these deceptive Internet sites. "These websites prey on people who are the most vulnerable and are just looking for help. They promise prompt response or guaranteed approval, when in fact all they do is jeopardize or delay weekly benefits, as they charge fees to people who can't afford to pay them. I want to remind all Montanans that filing for unemployment is a free service provided by the Unemployment Division of the Department of Labor and Industry."

Those who begin a claim on the independent websites ultimately end up filing on the state website, [UI4U.mt.gov](http://UI4U.mt.gov) because that is the only place to file online for unemployment benefits. As a result, they've not only delayed their benefits, they've paid a third party to do something that they can do themselves for free. By using the other websites, residents are also exposing themselves to identity theft by exposing confidential information to an unknown third party.

The Montana Department of Labor offers a full range of services free of charge, including unemployment benefits for those who lose jobs through no fault of their own, and career services for those who wish to find a job, improve their skills or find a better job.

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