

Timothy Jeffries, Director

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DES Office of Inspector General Unemployment Insurance Fraud Investigations Net Big Results

43 Individuals Convicted for a total of \$242,175 in Restitution, Fees and Fines

PHOENIX – Director Timothy Jeffries announced today the release of an Unemployment Insurance Benefit Fraud Conviction Report, which reflects efforts to detect, investigate and prosecute fraud and other crimes committed by claimants against the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program.

A total of 43 individuals were convicted during the months of April 2016 through June 2016 for committing crimes against the Unemployment Insurance Program, as a direct result of the DES Office of Inspector General's (OIG) investigative efforts. The convictions led to a total amount of \$242,175 to be repaid to the DES UI program in the form of restitution, fees and fines.

"Our Unemployment Insurance Fraud team has done a remarkable job upholding the integrity of the program and protecting taxpayer funds," said Director Timothy Jeffries. "Our office remains steadfast in its efforts to seek out individuals who defraud the system and hold them accountable to the fullest extent of the law."

"Fraud perpetrated against DES programs will not be tolerated," said Inspector General Juan J. Arcellana. "The Office of Inspector General will work with vigor to detect, investigate and aid in the prosecution of fraud in an effort to maintain the integrity of DES programs and services. We are extremely proud of our Unemployment Insurance Fraud team. They are a huge component of our success."

In Arizona, it is a Class VI Felony to misrepresent or fail to disclose facts or to make false statements in order to obtain or increase Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. If someone knowingly makes a false statement or withholds information in order to collect UI benefits to which they are not entitled, DES may take civil or criminal action, which may result in up to two years in prison and fines up to \$150,000 for each false statement.

The Unemployment Insurance Benefit Fraud Conviction Report is issued quarterly and [published online](#) to provide public information on the convicted perpetrators of crimes against the UI Benefit Program.

To report abuse of DES public benefits, call the Department's toll free hotline at 1-800-251-2436, or locally at 602-542-9449.

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