



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

News Release

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DES Unemployment Insurance Fraud Investigations Net Big Results

40 Individuals Convicted for a total of \$193,330

PHOENIX – The Department of Economic Security announced today the release of the [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. The Unemployment Insurance Benefit Fraud Conviction Report is issued quarterly and published online to provide public information on those who have been convicted of crimes against the UI Benefit Program.

“As stewards of taxpayer funds, it is our duty to investigate fraud,” said Director Tim Jeffries. “The work of our Office of Inspector General is crucial to ensuring our programs and services are able to assist Arizonans in need, which is our highest priority.”

Between the months of July through September 2016, a total of 40 individuals were convicted of committing crimes against the Unemployment Insurance Program as a direct result of the DES Office of Inspector General’s investigative efforts. Those convictions led to a total amount of \$193,330 to be repaid to the DES UI program in the form of restitution, fees and fines.

“The Office of Inspector General is tasked with the responsibility of protecting the integrity of the numerous programs administered by the Department of Economic Security,” said Inspector General Juan J. Arcellana. “Our Unemployment Insurance Fraud team is diligent in its detection efforts to protect the unemployment insurance fund from fraud, waste and abuse. We are extremely proud of their efforts.”

In Arizona, it is a Class VI Felony to misrepresent, fail to disclose facts or make false statements in order to obtain or increase Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. If an individual 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.

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

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The Arizona Department of Economic Security makes Arizona stronger by helping Arizonans reach their potential through temporary assistance for those in need, and care for the vulnerable.

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