



# Being unemployed is not a prerequisite to unemployment fraud.

Fraudsters have ramped up efforts to push scams that falsely promise to provide unemployment benefits to people who have been displaced from their jobs. Victims may unknowingly hand over their personal information to scammers with nefarious intentions, like selling that information on the dark web or stealing someone's identity to fraudulently collect the benefits themselves.



Up to **40%** of unemployment claims may be fraudulent<sup>1</sup>



**\$163 Billion** in unemployment-related waste<sup>2</sup>

Some states are reporting 35% – 40% of unemployment claims as fraudulent, contributing to about \$87 billion to \$163 billion being misappropriated from local governments that should be going to displaced American workers.

**No one can prevent all identity theft or cybercrime.**

1 - <https://www.govtech.com/blogs/lohmann-on-cybersecurity/unemployment-benefits-claims-fraud-new-threats-for-2021.html>

2 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2022/05/15/unemployment-pandemic-fraud-identity-theft/>

Reports by local and national news outlets, law enforcement agencies and our own restoration agents have shown scammers don't seem to be taking their foot off the pedal.

Between March 2020 and December 2020, NortonLifeLock observed a 6240% increase in the number of unemployment insurance fraud claims – these claims are from members who have requested restoration services due to fraudsters stealing their identity to fraudulently obtain unemployment benefits. Our dedicated U.S.-based restoration agents work with victims from start to finish to resolve fraud issues.

**It's critical that your employees are aware of these scams and understand how to detect and avoid them.**

- Privacy fundamentals, like not sharing your personal or financial information if you don't absolutely have to, can help people protect themselves against these scams. Another reliable rule of thumb is if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Scammers love creating look-alike government agencies to trick victims. It's important to understand that the government will not call you to ask for your personal information. If you do get a call from someone claiming to be from a government agency and asking for personal information, that should be a red flag that the caller is likely a scammer. Postal mail is the most legitimate source.
- If any government agency does contact you, do your research to ensure it's a legitimate organization – do an online search for the agency's phone number or email address and contact them directly.

## As a broker or employer you can do more!

You can help employees get protection by offering NortonLifeLock Employee Benefit Plans. Because in a digital world, it's reassuring to have real, dedicated specialists behind your employee benefit.

**Find out how NortonLifeLock Employee Benefit Plans can provide protection for employees.**

**844-698-8640**

### What a member can expect if they become a victim of identity theft:



1. A dedicated U.S.-based Identity Restoration Specialist explains how the restoration process works and what to expect.



2. A detailed Claims Kit is provided to help the member collect the required documents. We then provide the necessary documentation to third-parties.



3. We provide status updates and Follow up calls.



4. We assist the member with obtaining and reviewing their credit reports for additional identity theft or fraud events.



5. We help the members set up 1-year or 7-year fraud alerts with the credit bureaus.

**No one can prevent all cybercrime or identity theft.**

Copyright © 2022 NortonLifeLock Inc. All rights reserved. NortonLifeLock, the NortonLifeLock Logo, the Checkmark Logo, Norton, LifeLock, and the LockMan Logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of NortonLifeLock Inc. or its affiliates in the United States and other countries.



REB15487FL