

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 2, 2021

Contact: Tom Betti
Phone: (614) 817-2945
Email: thomas.betti@jfs.ohio.gov

ODJFS Creates Online Portal for Employers to Report Unemployment Identity Theft

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has created a new online portal that provides a direct way for employers to notify the agency if they believe their employees' personal information was compromised and used to file fraudulent unemployment claims.

Employers can visit unemployment.ohio.gov and click on the "Report Identity Theft" button. They will then be directed to both the portal and additional resources. The portal includes a template that employers can download, complete and then upload to provide the names of multiple employees whose personal information may have been compromised.

Many employers are alerted to the issue when they receive a "request for separation information" from ODJFS regarding an individual who is currently employed. This portal provides a secure way to expedite the reporting of this information to the agency.

Identity theft is a widespread national challenge. Many Ohioans have become victims, and their identities used to file fraudulent unemployment claims in both the traditional unemployment and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance programs. Last month, ODJFS issued 1.7 million 1099-G tax forms to individuals in whose names unemployment benefits were paid in 2020. Many of those individuals were never paid unemployment benefits and did not know their identity had been compromised until they received a 1099-G form.

-30-

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.

