



TOWN OF ARLINGTON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

TO: All Arlington Town Employees

FROM: Caryn Malloy, Director of Human Resources

SUBJECT: Unemployment Fraud Alert

DATE: November 20, 2020

As many of you know, unemployment fraud has become a big problem this year in Massachusetts and across the country. Unscrupulous actors are exploiting the increase in unemployment due to the Covid pandemic and attempting to collect government funds. The State Department of Unemployment Assistance believes that there is a national unemployment fraud scheme using data obtained from earlier national data breaches. The FBI is also investigating this.

When we receive notice of unemployment claims, we inform the employees who are affected and provide the information to the employees on how to respond. We inform the DUA of the claims that are fraudulent.

More information about this issue can be found at the [DUA website](#) and the [FBI website](#).

If your name has been reported to the Town of Arlington as someone who has filed for Unemployment:

Although you may have circumstances that led you to legitimately make a claim for Unemployment, there are a large number of fraudulent claims currently being filed with the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

DUA is working closely with state and federal law enforcement agencies and has indicated there is no evidence of a state data breach. Unfortunately, if an unemployment claim was fraudulently filed in your name, you were likely the victim of an earlier national or private sector data breach. It is likely that these criminal enterprises were in possession of your name, address and social security number in order to file a fraudulent claim.

If you have not filed for unemployment, it is in your best interest to complete the form below and report it to the state's unemployment office. The state will reach out to you with instructions for your next steps.

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/unemployment-fraud-reporting-form>

If you receive a mailing at your home address from the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) that acknowledges an unemployment claim filed by you, and that you did NOT initiate:

Please notify Claire Roberts at croberts@town.arlington.ma.us as soon as possible. In addition to alerting the Town, it is recommended that you consider taking the following steps/precautions as soon as possible:

- File a fraud report to the MA Department of Unemployment Assistance online at: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/unemployment-fraud-reporting-form> or by phone to DUA customer service department at (877) 626-6800.
- Go to www.IdentityTheft.gov , where you can report the identity theft to the FTC and get step-by-step recovery info.
- Other actions you can take: change passwords on personal accounts and alert the financial institutions where you do business that you are a victim of identity theft,
- Obtain a copy of your credit report and monitor transactions. Get your free credit report at www.annualcreditreport.com. Contact the 3 major credit reporting agencies by calling (877) 322-8228, or visit their websites (Equifax, Experian, and Transunion) where you can place a credit freeze and a fraud alert on your credit file. You can also file a police report with your local police department, and get a copy of the report to provide to creditors and credit agencies if needed.

Please note that this unemployment fraud is not unique to the Town of Arlington or its employees. Be assured that we will continue to be vigilant in monitoring and identifying fraud when it is presented to our office, and we ask that you do the same. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.