



Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation

2011 Changes to Florida Unemployment Compensation Law

Effective June 27, 2011

Florida Unemployment Compensation Law, Chapter 443, Florida Statutes was amended to incorporate the following changes:

Misconduct - The definition of misconduct was amended. Misconduct occurs in connection with a job whether or not it occurs at the workplace or during working hours. Misconduct results in the denial of benefits when there is conscious disregard of the employer's interests and deliberate disregard of reasonable standards of behavior.

Benefit Payments – If you file a claim on or after July 1, 2011, you must select payments via Florida Unemployment Compensation Debit Card or direct deposit to your bank account. Paper warrants/checks will no longer be issued. Individuals who received payment by paper warrant for the week ending July 2, 2011 may continue to receive payment in this manner until the expiration of their claim unless they discontinue reporting and reopen their claims during their current benefit year, file an additional claim prior to the expiration date of their current benefit year, or file a new claim for Regular or Extended Benefits.

Effective August 1, 2011

Online Filing and Certification of Weeks – You must file initial and continued claims electronically at www.floridajobs.org. These services will not be available by telephone or mail.

Work Search – You are required to contact five potential employers each week and provide this information via the Internet during your bi-weekly certification for benefits at www.floridajobs.org. A quick, efficient way to contact employers is by using the Employ Florida Marketplace at employflorida.com, the state's online job matching system where you can search thousands of job postings and apply for jobs.

If you are not able to make at least five employer contacts in a week, meeting with a representative at your local One-Stop Career Center for reemployment services shall satisfy this requirement for that week.

Skills Assessment – In order to receive benefits, claimants filing new claims must complete an initial online skills assessment. The results of the assessment will be used by your local One-Stop Career Center to assist in your job search efforts.

Severance Pay – If your severance pay per week is equal to or greater than your weekly benefit amount, you are not entitled to benefits for that week. Severance pay does not impact the total amount of benefits that can be paid on the claim.

For additional information, please visit www.floridajobs.org or call 800-204-2418.