

# WE ARE YOUR DOL



## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Domestic violence is behavior used by a person to gain power and control over an intimate partner or other family member. Examples of domestic violence include:

- Actual or threatened physical harm in any form
- Stopping you from going to work
- Name calling or put-downs
- Stalking
- Intimidation
- Keeping you away from family or friends

It does not matter if the abuser is drunk, high, stressed, or from a different culture. There is no excuse for domestic violence.

### THE LAW

New York State has laws so workers do not lose their jobs because of domestic violence. These laws require employers to make “reasonable accommodations” to help an employee deal with abuse. An example is giving an employee a day off to attend court.

If you left your job or were fired because of issues related to domestic violence, you may be able to get Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Usually, people who quit their jobs cannot get Unemployment Insurance benefits. However, if you can show “good cause” for quitting, you may be able to get these benefits. “Good cause” reasons can include that you have to leave your job because:

- You or your immediate family member are a victim of domestic violence, and
- You believe staying in your job would risk your safety or the safety of your immediate family member

If you want to file a claim for Unemployment Insurance benefits or if you have a claim and would like more information, please call the New York State Department of Labor at **1-888-209-8124**.

For help related to domestic violence, please call the New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline at **1-800-942-6906**.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** What can I do if I was fired or had to quit my job because of domestic violence?

**A:** You can file a claim for Unemployment Insurance benefits. You can also file a discrimination claim with the New York State Division of Human Rights if you believe that you were fired or had to quit because your employer learned that:

- You are a domestic violence victim
- You have an order of protection
- Your abuser is coming to your workplace

If your abuser violates the order of protection or becomes abusive at your workplace, your employer should call the police.

**Q:** How do I file a claim?

**A:** It is best to apply for Unemployment Insurance benefits online. Sign in with your **NY.GOV ID** and follow the instructions to file a claim. You may file your claim:

- Monday – Thursday from 7:30 am to 7:30 pm (Eastern Time)
- Friday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm
- Saturday – 24 hours
- Sunday until 7 pm

If you do not have a computer, you can call our Telephone Claim Center toll-free to file a claim. Call **1-888-209-8124**, 8 am to 5 pm, Monday - Friday. If you file by phone, we offer translation services.

**Q:** Do I need to provide my address to get Unemployment Insurance benefits?

**A:** We understand that some domestic violence survivors do not wish to provide their street address if it could put them at risk. In this case, the Department of Labor can accept a P.O. Box address. For help protecting your address, please contact the New York State Department of State's Address Confidentiality Program at 1-855-350-4595. This free program helps victims of domestic violence shield their actual address. You can be assigned a PO Box address for your mail. The program will then forward your mail to your actual address. Find out more at [www.dos.ny.gov/acp/](http://www.dos.ny.gov/acp/).

**Q:** What happens after I apply for Unemployment Insurance benefits?

**A:** When we get your application and see that you lost or left your job because of domestic violence, we may need more information about your claim to make a decision. A representative will contact you to interview you about your last job and your separation from work. The representative will also ask your employer for information before we make a decision on your application. Normally it takes up to six weeks for a decision to be made on your claim and, if you are determined eligible, to receive your first payment. It may take longer depending on the details of your case. If you are found eligible for benefits, you will be paid any back payments promptly.

Find more information at: [www.labor.ny.gov/ui/claimantinfo/domesticviolenceanduibenefits.shtm](http://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/claimantinfo/domesticviolenceanduibenefits.shtm)

## RESOURCES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

If you have been abused by an intimate partner or a family or household member, please call the 24-hour New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline. The hotline helps with:

- Crisis Intervention
- Counseling
- Referrals to local domestic violence help

Call the New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline at: **1-800-942-6906**.

In New York City, call **1-800-621-4673**  
(TDD: **1-800-810-7444**)