



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: John Carpenter, Public Information Officer ♦ Office: (405) 557-5469 ♦ Fax: (405) 525-0139
E-mail: john.carpenter@oesc.state.ok.us ♦ Website: oesc.state.ok.us

FOR RELEASE: July 26, 2004

CHANGES IN FILING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AFFECT RESIDENTS IN THE HUGO AREA

OESC Executive Director Jon Brock asks all news outlets to notify the public of this change in filing for unemployment benefits.

HUGO, OK – A change is coming in how people in the Hugo area file for unemployment benefits. The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission announced that in-person unemployment claims would no longer be taken at the Hugo Workforce Oklahoma Center located at 107 S. Third Street after July 31. Beginning August 1, 2004, residents will be offered a variety of alternatives to file for unemployment benefits. Customers can use Hugo Workforce Oklahoma Center telephones to file their claims through the Oklahoma City call center free of charge. Computers in the workforce center resource room can also be used to file claims over the Internet. Someone will be available to help people filing online. Those who prefer to deal with a warm body can file their claim at the Idabel Workforce Oklahoma office located at Highway 70 and Brinkley Drive in Idabel on Mondays at 8:15 a.m. and again at 11:00 a.m.

Other services offered at the Hugo Workforce Oklahoma Center will not be affected. The job service interviewer will still be in the office on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and the veterans' representative will continue meet with the public on Wednesday. Customers can expect the same quality service that they have come to rely on.

"We pride ourselves on serving our customers," says Cody Cox, OESC Area Manager for Southeastern Oklahoma. "This change allows us to more effectively serve our customers through some new technology solutions like online filing and our call center. It also serves the public by freeing up funding for use where it is needed most."

For more information, please contact Cody Cox at (580) 286-6667 or John Carpenter at (405) 557-5469.

###