



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

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FILING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS JUST GOT EASIER! *State Agency Uses Technology to Provide a More Accessible Benefits System*

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission is changing the way people file for benefits in order to better serve both individuals and businesses. Beginning April 1, 2005, all unemployment benefit claims in Oklahoma will be filed either by phone or Internet. Claims will no longer be taken in person. This move will cut down on paperwork and red tape while making the entire process more efficient both inside and outside the agency.

"This is another step in making our state workforce system more responsive to customer needs," says Jerry Pectol, director of the agency's Unemployment Insurance division. "The goal is to make filing for unemployment insurance benefits easier and more efficient for the citizens of Oklahoma."

Claimants looking to file a new or additional unemployment claim, reopen a claim, file weekly certification or ask about their benefit check may do so by phone or Internet.

Oklahoma City: (405) 525-1500

Statewide: (800) 555-1554

Online: www.unemployment.ok.gov

Once a claimant has filed an unemployment benefit claim, they must still visit their local Workforce Oklahoma location to verify their identity. Without this verification, they will NOT be eligible for unemployment benefits.

Businesses will use the following contact information to make unemployment insurance inquiries.

Questions about mass or partial claims: (405) 962-7568

Questions regarding unemployment taxes: (405) 557-7131

General questions/current claims pending: (405) 552-6799

Please note that all of these phone numbers are new. For more information about these improvements to the state workforce system, contact John Carpenter at (405) 557-5469.

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