

I am writing this so that I may be one of many voices that I'm sure will be heard; with the hope that we might find a solution quickly.

I believe the most frustrating part for me in this crisis has been the absolute impossible task of trying to speak with someone at unemployment. In an attempt to get some questions answered regarding my claim I have spent hours, days, weeks trying to speak with someone ---- anyone. I came to the point weeks ago where I had to give up. Since then my phone was stolen, which also meant my ability to get into my email and any other alternative means of communication. So now I am in fear of missing my call from unemployment; I heard I miss it twice and my case is denied! I am a single mother but currently only my 22yr old son lives full-time with me (thank God for that). He makes minimum wage which is enough to support himself. Meanwhile I am 3 months behind on rent, same for utilities, and cashing out the last of my OregonSaves for a measly \$48.00 which will give me enough to put gas in my car. Maybe find a cheap phone (I am borrowing a friend's old phone and using an email I just created last week). During all of this, as if it wasn't enough, I found myself in a relationship that turned physically abusive and now am faced with the probability of having to "hide-out" so that I am not killed by this man..... but then I will be in violation of the unemployment requirements... that I've been waiting for since the beginning of June. Benefits that I most certainly worked hard for and paid into since my residency in Oregon (2013). I haven't even gotten into the fact that my previous employer (KFC) is fighting it; stating a "no call/no show" on my scheduled day off (which is incorrect, I communicated to my assistant manager). As General Manager I am a salaried employee and the D.O.E. basing my no call/no show off of a piece of paper in my writing that said "Deanna 8 am to 2pm" - did I mention it was on my day off ??

So this was not meant to be a rambling of my situation, which I am sure is not the worst of situations compared to others who have also been waiting; many longer than me. It is just a peak inside what I am going through and I have literally not a single question answered. I don't even know if unemployment will side with me although I am 100 percent positive I am in the right. And if they don't how long does the appeal take??? I don't even want to think that way..

I have read every article on the website, on the news, on the unemployment Facebook page ---- anywhere I can find information, I try to be as informed as possible. Today I read about the extra \$300 going to people already receiving unemployment. I couldn't help but be mad. All of us people still waiting.. for months.... with NO INCOME, and they are getting more??? Still leaving us in the lurch, hoping, waiting, crying, screaming, willing to take minimum wage jobs just to feed ourselves... I am scared, frustrated, unsure of my future in this state. Inevitably it might mean I am living in a mission somewhere, having had to abandon everything I've worked so hard for these last 7 years. What a horrible nightmare. Please help.

Sincerely,

Deanna Nichols