

Below is email I sent in appeal to not receiving my full benefits due to being laid off due to the pandemic. When I first applied for benefits the Pandemic Relief Fund hadn't yet been formed which would have allowed me to receive my full benefits. Because of this I was penalized thousands of dollars for an issue on a prior claim to which I had already paid it back. I still have yet to hear back months later. This is my livelihood. My son's livelihood. I do not have enough to make my rent let alone my utilities. My owed unemployment would put me almost even. I plead with you to please read and allow me all the money I should have gotten. Please and thank you. You will be ensuring my son and I will be homeless if not.

My name is Michelle Landolt. [REDACTED] Phone number: 503-381-1598. I have included certain public officials because this is of dire importance to my son and myself. I have now been denied for 10 weeks....that is \$9,500.

March 18 I applied for Unemployment after being furloughed by the state government on March 16. I was a server for Mother's Bistro. I hope to go back when we are allowed but of yet I have no idea when that will be. I was denied week after week for an administrative decision made on a prior claim back in 2017. No further information was provided so I didn't know what that meant until I filed my taxes which I did in order to receive the stimulus check. I figured the administrative issue was figured out but I continued to be denied with no further information. After 2 1/2 months of trying to reach someone I finally did this past Friday and she said I had 9 penalty weeks to pay back the sum I owed. Well now it is being denied a 10th week. The 2nd lady I talked to said that it wasn't a simple overpayment but that when I reported my card possibly stolen or missing that I didn't follow through so therefore I owed more and bc my card was being used out of state and I didn't argue that it made me look guilty. Which I completely understand. But I'm still confused why I'm being penalized over \$9,500 on top of the \$1800 that came out of my taxes. I could maybe understand the \$350 (my initial approved amount) but also the extra \$600 from the stimulus package meant for those of us who have been furloughed to make it. The \$600 is not apart of the \$350 penalty weeks I was originally docked. According to the 2nd lady this decision was made PRIOR to the Federal Government unemployment expansion end of April. 45 days AFTER I filed my claim. If I had my choice I never would have stopped working. I've been only been on unemployment only the 1 other time.

My personal background if needed or wanted:

(The 2017 claim was made after I lost my job because I no called no showed due to being raped by my ex boyfriend. I was a Behavioral Therapist at Play Connevtions in Beaverton. I received unemployment until I think June. I don't remember exactly when. And I am told I reached out asking and was told that it was bc my card was being used outside of state. Therefore I was denied and no longer able to receive benefits. I was asked why I didn't fight it back then. I honesy have no idea. I dont think I knew I could or honestly had the mental capacity to do so. It was just another stumbling block. This is one of my darkest times and I've had several unfortunately. I attempted suicide during this time, I was trapped in my own home, traumatized by rape and scared of what he would do to my son and myself next. I was diagnosed with Acute PTSD and depression the November prior in 2016 by Heather Nordeen due to severe abuse. I am thankful that for the help at DHS who got my son and I both into therapy and approved me for TANF and Food benefits, and later a DV grant to move me out of state. All of this after I was denied a new card or the rest of my benefits. I was then able to get a job that August at Behavioral Support Solutions. I

have unfortunately moved around a lot due to my ex stalking and assaulting me. I moved back to Washington for a bit. Back to Portland and then moved to Tampa with the help of a grant and have been back in Portland the past 2 years and have made a stand. I was stronger mentally and tired of running. I never received aid from Oregon during those times and was in contact with my domestic violence advocate Marie at Broadway DHS in Portland always. I have had to receive Domestic Violence Grants on 3 separate occasions to help get my son and I to safety. I accept the overpayment as it is my fault that I don't know what happened to my card then or a solid defense really. I always thought it was my mom or my ex but I thought I was being paranoid. Neither have admitted it to me and I believe my mother who has helped financially since then. I was told that I called in August as well and that my card was still being used out of state. This isn't possible as I was still in a lease at the Yards at Union Station and paying my rent monthly as well as I had to be in Portland to interview for my job and start my job.)

I have worked so hard to survive and break the abuse cycle. I have refused to give up. Right now the penalty weeks bc of these crazy times is amounting to \$9,500 and counting. I was not fired. I did not quit. I was temporarily laid off by the Federal Government. I did not have a choice. I finally was on my own two feet. Paying my own way. These extra penalties are money that I rightfully earned. I have lost out on almost 15,000 (this is how much I'd be making if I was still working) in lost wages through no fault of my own. I am the sole provider for my son.

I have paperwork from my therapist as well paperwork from DHS that corroborates what I went through as well as my hiring letter that shows I was in Portland when my card was being used out of state. I had a lease from Feb 2017 until Feb 2018 when I temporarily moved to Tampa on a DV grant. Please allow me to receive my full benefits that I've requested due to being Furloughed bc of Covid-19. Also my previous unemployment claim I never used my full approved amount which I have no idea what it was. I obviously wish I had the mental capacity 4 years ago to take the time to fight this but I didn't. This letter alone has taken me a week to draft and I have fought with whether I should even bother. But I have come too far and fought too hard to become homeless. I understand since I didn't respond in time to the 2017 (I never received notice due to my moving a lot) administrative issue that I still owe that cost and have since paid it. I hope you truly take the time to read my words and my story. And if you want to penalize me on top of the money originally owed then please only penalize me the pre-COVID/pre-special circumstance \$600 amount. Otherwise I will not be able to pay my back rent nor utilities owed which as of June 1 will be at more than \$6,500 and my son and I will become homeless. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Michelle Landolt