

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Department of Employment Services

MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR



DEBORAH A. CARROLL  
DIRECTOR

### UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (UC)

## UC Fraud Penalty Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Effective October 1, 2014 – Federal Penalties Imposed

#### What is a fraudulent overpayment?

If you knowingly and willingly received unemployment compensation benefits which you were not eligible for, you have committed unemployment fraud. The Department of Employment Services sends out a written determination letter to claimants that indicates the overpayment: amount, reason and time frame (weeks). Individuals who are overpaid are required to make full repayment to the District of Columbia.

#### What is a federally imposed penalty?

If you commit unemployment fraud, you must repay the benefits you were not entitled to receive plus a 15% penalty on the benefits you fraudulently received. The 15% penalty is to be paid in addition to the actual amount of the overpayment and applies to all overpayments that have been determined by the Department of Employment Services (DOES) to be fraudulent.

#### What is the applicable penalty time frame?

The penalty time frame covers any fraudulent benefit overpayment received **beginning on or after October 21, 2013**.

#### Where do I send my repayment to?

Please make your check or money order payable to The Department of Employment Services. Include your full name and the last four digits of your Social Security Number on all remittances. All payments to DOES should be sent to:

Department of Employment Services  
Benefit Payment Control Branch  
4058 Minnesota Avenue, NE – Suite 3100  
Washington, DC 20019

#### What happens if I fail to pay my overpayment amount and imposed penalty?

Failure to repay the **overpayment amount** or adhere to an established restitution agreement could result in future garnishment of wages, interception of income tax refunds, and/or deduction from any future claim filed in any state.

Failure to pay the **imposed penalty** can result in offset of federal and state taxes and referral for prosecution.

For more information on overpayments and repayments, visit <http://does.dc.gov/page/what-unemployment-insurance-fraud>

If you currently have an overpayment and are experiencing financial hardship, you have the opportunity to request a waiver. Please note fraud overpayments are not eligible for a waiver.