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State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor

Department of Employment Security
Jay Rowell, Director



Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook



IDES
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

the federal government or (4) if you have served in the armed forces, tell the claimstaker.

(**Note:** The law provides jail sentences and fines if you attempt to obtain benefits fraudulently by withholding pertinent information or by making false statements with regard to your claim.)

What “Able to and Available for Work” Means

The law states that you must be *able to and available for work* during any week for which you claim benefits. This means that, during the week, you must have been willing, ready and able to accept a suitable job. Normally this means a full-time job. You are *not* able to and available for work if:

1. You are sick and cannot work on any day.
2. You are away on vacation.
3. You must stay at home to keep house or care for your family.
4. You have retired and will not accept a suitable job.
5. After losing your last job, you move to and stay in a community where your

chances of getting a job are definitely not as good as those in the community you left.

6. The kind of wages, hours or work conditions you insist on unreasonably limit the chances of your getting a job.
7. Your main occupation is that of a student in attendance at or on vacation from school. However, you may be eligible for benefits if you are attending an approved training course to help you get a job under specified circumstances. If you are enrolled in such a course, inform an IDES representative in the local IDES office.

Actively Looking for Work

The law states that you must be actively looking for work on your own initiative. You must register with the Illinois Employment Service at a local IDES office, or you may register at our Internet site at **www.IllinoisJobLink.com**. Your work preferences and skills will be matched to available job openings. Staff members are available at the IDES offices to provide assistance with your job search. In addition, you will be expected to regularly inform IDES about: