

COVID-19 Economic Relief Alert

Unemployment Insurance Announcement for the Self Employed

by Sean Musgrove

- **The CARE Act expands unemployment insurance to many people who may not normally be eligible because they either are self-employed or they otherwise are not eligible for unemployment benefits. This expansion of benefits is named ‘Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.’**

- **The CARE Act also allows for criminal action by the United States government to be brought against people who lie or fail to disclose facts on their applications.**

On Friday, March 27, 2020, Congress passed the CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT in response to the COVID-19 crisis. This is referred to the CARE Act for short.

The CARE Act has expanded who has the right to receive unemployment benefits. This expansion under the Care Act is called Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.

There are two very important things to know about applying for the CARE Act’s expansion of unemployment benefits.

The first thing is that you may be eligible for unemployment insurance even you are self-employed or otherwise not traditionally eligible.

The second thing is that if you are less than honest in your application for benefits, you can be prosecuted for violating section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.

Who is eligible for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation?

The CARE Act gives certain individuals the right to Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation. This gives self-employed individuals the right to unemployment benefits in some cases.

By terms of the statute, applying for benefits will be very easy to do. Individuals who apply will be self-certifying that they are eligible for benefits. This means that if you apply, you will be the one who is saying that you are eligible for benefits.

The CARE Act establishes who is, and who is not, eligible for unemployment benefits in section 2102. It will be your responsibility to make sure you are eligible.

How can you tell if you are eligible? The CARE Act states if an individual meets the criteria listed below, they will now be eligible for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation. This includes anyone who is:

1. is self-employed,
2. is seeking part-time employment,
3. does not have sufficient work history,
4. or otherwise would not qualify for regular unemployment or extended benefits under State or Federal law or pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under the statute's section 2107 and meets the requirements of subclause.

You will not be eligible if any of the following are true:

1. You are an individual who has the ability to telework with pay; or
2. You are an individual who is receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits, regardless of whether the individual meets a qualification described in that statute's items (aa) through (kk) of subparagraph (A)(i)(I).

If you are eligible, there is relief for you. All you need to do is apply.

In California, the State of California's Employment Development Department (EDD) seems to be the department that will be most likely responsible for payment of the Federal Pandemic

Unemployment Compensation. However, as of Sunday, March 29, 2020, there is no reference to 'Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation' on the website.

If you are outside of California, you should also check with whatever department administers your state's unemployment benefits.

It is important to be honest in your application for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.

We are all facing the Global COVID-19 crisis together. This is a global crisis that is having a heaving impact on our country's economy.

The United States of America has passed a law that gives the people in our country the ability to access unprecedented economic relief through the CARE Act.

Unfortunately, it is human nature for some bad actors in our world to take advantage of situations. The fact that people are to self-certify that they are eligible for benefits means that some people will be tempted to lie so they can receive benefits they are not actually eligible to receive.

It is important for everyone to know this before they apply for any type of relief under the CARE Act. People who get caught applying for and receiving benefits that they are not actually eligible for shall be subject to prosecution under section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.

Let me be extremely clear. Section 1001 of title 18, United States Code is the law that people like Martha Stewart, Rod Blagojevich, Michael T. Flynn, Rick Gates, Scooter Libby, Bernard Madoff, and Jeffrey Skilling have been prosecuted for violating. You do not want to join this elite group at Club Fed.

How can I avoid getting into trouble?

If you are unsure whether you are eligible, please make sure you fully disclose why you are unsure in the application. If there is no place in the application for you to fully disclose, please contact the department in charge of administering the benefits via whatever means necessary so you may discuss whether or not you are eligible for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation. Keep written records of who you communicate with.

If you do not, and you apply for and receive benefits that you are not really eligible for, you may later face criminal penalties.

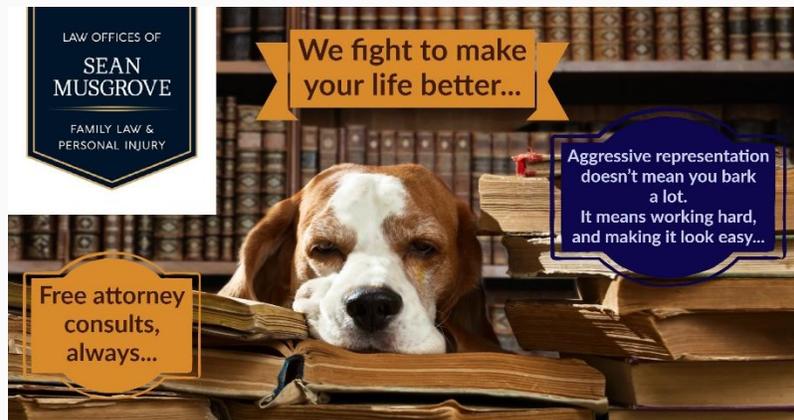
Unprecedented times, an unprecedented relief package, and your patriotic duty...

In these unprecedented times, the leadership of the United States of America has given us an unprecedented relief package. The purpose of this package is to limit the economic effect of the stay-in-place orders and the closures of non-essential businesses.

Both complying with the stay-in-place orders and surviving this economic disaster is our patriotic duty as Americans.

If you are not eligible, it is your patriotic duty not to apply for benefits that are meant for someone else.

If you are eligible and need assistance, you should apply. If you are unsure, you should reach out to the governmental agency in charge of your unemployment benefits and get clarification.



Sean Musgrove is an attorney of a mid-size law firm in Folsom, California. His firm focuses on family law, civil litigation, general tax advice, and business law. He can be reached at myteam@seanmusgrove.net or at 916-965-4577.

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Our mailing address is:
75 Natoma Street, #A
Folsom, CA 95630