



Dear employee,

The Federal Trade Commission is warning about a large-scale scam in which imposters file fraudulent claims for unemployment benefits using the names and personal information of people who have not filed claims.

The Charlotte County Human Resources Department has identified several cases where county employees' names have been used to file fraudulent unemployment insurance claims without the employees' knowledge. HR has contacted the employees to alert them to the situation and advise them of steps they may take to protect themselves from identity theft.

Here's what you should know:

- When an unemployment claim is made, the employer is contacted to confirm the information made in the claim.
- Human Resources alerts the employee whose name was used to file the claim.
- The affected employee(s) will be contacted by Human Resources with information on how to dispute the claim.
- Employees should take protective action to ensure the suspected scammer is not using their personal information in other ways that could cause financial or credit damage.

To protect your finances and credit rating:

- Put a free, one-year fraud alert on your credit
- Get free credit reports at [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com)
- Close any fraudulent accounts opened in your name.

For more information about the unemployment fraud scam and identity theft in general, visit www.usa.gov/identity-theft or IdentityTheft.gov.