



2121 Meadowlark Rd  
Manhattan, KS 66502

DATE: 02/01/2021

RE: Meadowlark, Unemployment fraud

My name is Robyn Harris, I am the Human Resources Leader for Meadowlark (legally known as the Manhattan Retirement Foundation) in Manhattan, Kansas. We are a not-for-profit organization devoted to caring for the elderly in the Manhattan area, since 1980. For Unemployment we use a third-party administrator, Unemployment Insurance Services- they receive the claims from the State and then forward to me to review each claim for accuracy, input pay and employment information and submit back.

Investigating these claims has made a substantial negative impact on me as the HR Leader, and on the time that it now takes for me to manage and handle these claims, as I now have to reach out to each person who is on the list of claims to find out if the claim is legitimate. If I am unable to reach the individual (which often happens due to changed phone numbers, etc..) then I am forced to submit the claim back with all required information, and assume that it is a real claim, as I cannot say that it's fraudulent without knowing for sure, which then means that we will be billed for this claim.

Employees are greatly concerned that their personal information is now compromised- I send them the KDOL fraud website to report their claim and let them know that we will report it on our end as well and try to reassure them that this will be taken care of.

Over the past several months, we have received a significant increase in fraudulent unemployment claims which have totaled over **\$24,000.00** for our organization.

Jan-March of 2020- Meadowlarks unemployment bill was \$234.00.

Apr-June of 2020- Meadowlarks unemployment bill was \$36,324.29, with cares act reduction we paid \$18,081.04. There was 1 (known) fraudulent charge for a person who never worked for the organization in the amount of **\$5473.60**.

July-Sep of 2020- Meadowlarks unemployment bill was \$33,525.51, with a cares act reduction we paid \$16,762.76, with 1 (known) fraudulent charge (same person as previous bill) for \$5473.60, and another individual on the bill who we won an appeal for, in the amount of \$1,519.00, then 2 months later we received an **amended bill** for the same time period for \$28,051.91, with a cares act reduction we paid \$14,025.96- this bill removed the fraudulent charge above.

**So essentially, we paid the State twice for the same bill.**

Oct-Dec of 2020- Meadowlarks unemployment bill was \$46,203.61, with a cares act reduction our portion of the bill is \$20,365.01, **with (12 known) fraudulent charges for \$19,069.06.**

I am frustrated as the HR leader, I am frustrated on behalf of our organization and the amount of money that we have been forced to pay on time to prevent from paying interest to the DOL even though we know the bill is not accurate, and I am frustrated as a tax payer.

Robyn Harris  
Human Resources Leader  
Meadowlark