How to File an Interstate Claim

- 1. Complete the interstate claim package found on www.vidol.gov/dua.php
- 2. Mail the completed forms and copies of support documents to the:

Virgin Islands Department of Labor

PO Box 303159 – Charlotte Amalie St. Thomas, VI 00803-3159 ATTN: Interstate Coordinator

3. Send any questions about your interstate claim to interstate@vidol.gov or call 340-776-3700 for additional information.



CHECK LIST FOR FILING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Have the following items ready before applying:

□Application
□ Last employer Job letter (lay-off/discharged or resignation letter if you quit)
□ DD214 copy 4 (US Armed Force)
□ SF 8 / SF 50 (If employed in Federal Civilian service)
□ Last pay stub from current job (Also, if you received or will receive separation pay, such as, vacation, severance, holiday pay etc., you will need to submit a copy of your paystubs)
□ Social security card (If you've lost it, call the Social Security office or apply online and get a new card) ■ Valid Identification Card
□Valid Identification Card
□ Alien Card (If non-citizen: bring your alien registration/green card or other documents issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service or any documents that show your immigration status)
□ Pension (If you are collecting a pension other than Social Security, you will need to submit the pension statement. □ Résumé
The following will be provided by our agency for completion:
□ V.I. Electronic Workforce System (VIeWs) Username
□Signed Acknowledgement of Receipt - Claimant (BRI) Handbook
□Collecting U.I Benefits while working (initials)
□Tax withholding
☐ Direct Deposit Agreement form
INTERNAL OFFICE ONLY
DOL Representative Initial's:
Claimant appointment date:
Please stamp today's date:



APPLICATION FORM

LAST NAM	E:	FIRST NAME:							
SOCIAL SE	CURITY #:	Today's Date:							
Address:	Street:								
Address.	City/State:	: Zip:							
Mailing	Street:								
Address:	City/State:		Zip:						
Day Phone:	()	Alternate Phone: (<u>)</u>							
E-Mail Addr	ess:	Gender:	Male	Female					
Date of Birth	n: Are you registered for S		Yes	No					
EDUCATIO	American Indian/Alaskan Native Black/African American Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Islander N STATUS: Highest grade completed:	White Asian Other Still in School Did not complete H/S	HNICITY: Hispanic or Lat Not Hispanic or Decline to Ansv GED H/S Diploma	r Latino					
Degrees lic	enses or credentials you hold:		ri, o Bipioma	Completed College					
If no, what k CITIZENSH Are you US Are you in s Enter your A ADDITIONA Current or for Refugee / A Homeless Receiving P	Citizen/Naturalized? atisfactory immigration status? Alien Registration Number? AL INFORMATION: Drimer Foster Youth sylee Yes No Pe	rant/seasonal farm worker rson with a disability offender plied or receiving pension	No No Expiration Date Yes Yes Yes Yes	No No No No No					
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From: From:						-			8
Contract ended		To:							
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Date.	Signature:								



DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Acknowledgment of Receipt of Handbook/BRI Video Briefing

Today's Date			
Claimant Name			
Social Security			
Guide for Receivin Unemployment Insinformation about	chat I was given a <u>Clang UI Benefits handboo</u> surance (UI) Division. I at my Unemployme a compliance with the I	<u>k</u> issued by the United I understand the this g Int Insurance (UI)	d States Virgin Islands guide contains specific benefit rights and
located in the VID	that I will look at the OOL's website www.vieter or internet at home wideo.	dol.gov (Unemployme	ent Insurance). If I do
and LOOK AT Thandbook/Video, file required documents and rely on advice concerns regarding	I must READ THIS HA THE BRI VIDEO. For the make timely inquiring the ments in a timely manal or loss of your understanding from family, relatived manal or loss. I will soor, Unemployment Institute of the manal of the manal of the manal of the ment of the ment of the manal of the ment of t	ailure to follow the es when necessary, to ner, or to file claim for the employment insurances or friends. If there contact the United	instructions in this report as directed, to orms as directed, may ce (UI) benefits. I will are any questions or States Virgin Islands
CLAIMANT SIGNA	TURE		



Collecting Unemployment Insurance Benefits While Working is a <u>CRIME!</u>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT REPORTING WAGES WAGES: WHAT ARE THEY, WHY DO I NEED TO REPORT THEM AND WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT?

WAGES ARE ANY AND ALL INCOME RECEIVED FROM:

- ✓ Worked Performed
- ✓ Bonuses and Tips
- ✓ Back Pay Awards
- ✓ Part-Time Work
- ✓ International Work: Canada/Abroad

- ✓ Commissions
- ✓ Holiday and/or Vacation Pay
- ✓ Seasonal Work
- ✓ Per Diem Work
- ✓ Cash Earnings

Gross wages must be reported during the week they were earned, not when you receive your pay. The term **gross wages** refers to the amount of money eared before taxes or any other deductions are taken out.

Once you begin full-time work, you are **not elegible** to continue receiving unemployment insurance benefits. Depending on when you start working, you may be eligible for partial unemployment insurance benefits. You are required to report earnings as of the first day you begin work, even if you do not receive your pay until a later date. If you do not have a pay stub or your work week is different from our Sunday to Saturday claim week, you will need to calculate your gross wages in order to report them when claiming your benefits.

WHY DO I NEED TO REPORT MY WAGES?

When claiming benefits, you must report any wages you may have earned for that week. Why? Your employer submits information about newly hired employees, including the first day of work, to the U.S. Virgin Islands, which in turn is passed on

to the Division of Unemployment Insurance. The Division performs a cross-match of new hire information against all claimants who certify for unemployment insurance benefits. The Benefit Payment Control Unit within the Division also compares the wages reported by you to those wages reported by your employer during the same time period and conflicting information is assigned to an investigator for resolution.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT REPORT MY WAGES?

If you receive benefits to which you were not entitled, you will be responsible for repaying the benefits that you received. If you are found to have collected benefits **fraudulently**, you will incur interest and penalities and you will be disqualified from the receipt of unemployment insurance benefits for one year. In addition, you may be prosecuted criminally, face additional penalities and possible jail time.

PLEASE CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT REPORTING WAGES

Dept. of Labor – UI Benefits (St. Croix)	(340) 773-1994
Dept. of Labor – UI Benefits (St. Thomas)	(340) 776-3700
I acknowledge that I have read and und	erstand this statement and wish to file m
3	-
Unemployment Claim at this time	(Please initial)
No, I do not wish to file an Unemploymen	t Claim at this time (Please initial)



VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

VOLUNTARY WITHHOLDING OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX

Unemployment Insurance benefits are fully taxable if you are required to file a tax return. Federal Tax is withheld at 10%.

A statement, Form 1099-G, will be furnished to you at the end of January stating the amount of benefits paid and withheld during the prior year. The same information will be transmitted to the Internal Revenue Branch (IRB).

The department is not responsible for refunding withheld taxes.

PLEASE DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING YOUR INCOME TAX LIABILITY TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE BRANCH.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW TO DECLINE OR REQUEST WITHHOLDING OF FEDERAL INCOME TAXES.

SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

Department of Labor
P.O. Box 303159
Charlotte Amalie St. Thomas VI 00803
FAX# (340) 715-5731
OR
Department of Labor
4401 Sion Farm
Christiansted, St. Croix 00820
FAX# (340) 773-1515

NA	.ME (PLEASE PRINT): _										
		FIRST		MIDE	DLE INITIA	L			LA	ST	
AD	DRESS										
	SOCIAL SECURI	TY NUMBER									
	I do not wish to have	e Federal Incom	e tax ded	ucted from	my unem	iployme	ent ins	urance	benefits	i .	
	☐ I hereby authorize the Department of Labor to deduct and withhold federal income tax from my unemployment insurance benefits.										
	SIGNATU	RE							DA	TE.	

ALLOW SEVEN WORKING DAYS FOR CHANGES TO TAKE EFFECT.

*PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Information you provide to this department is voluntary and confidential but is required to process your claim. Pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1320b-7(a) 1, and s. 443.091(1) (h), F.S., disclosure of your Social Security number is mandatory. Social Security numbers will be used by the department to report the benefits you receive to the Internal Revenue Service as potential taxable income. In accordance with the Federal Deficit Reduction Act, an amendment to the Federal Social Security Act, and 5 U.S.C. 552 a(o)(1)(D), information you provide is subject to verification through computer matching programs and information about your wages and claim may be provided to other federal, state and local agencies or their contractors for verification of eligibility under other government programs to ensure benefits have been properly paid and for statistical and research purposes.

VIRGIN ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Unemployment Insurance Division

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONNARIE

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CLAIMANT:

It is necessary that you answer the questions on this form. The answers you give will be used to evaluate your eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits.

Υοι	Your Name(print) S. S. Number			
1.	What kind of work did you do on your last job?	YES	NO	
	What kind(s) of work are you seeking? Do you have experience in this field(s)?			
	Are you willing to work full time? If no, indicate the maximum number of hours per week you are willing to work			
4.	Circle the days of the week you are willing to work:			
	Mon. Tue. Wed. Thu. Fri. Sat. Sun.			
	Indicate the geographic areas where you are seeking work: What means of transportation do you have available to you? (personal car, bus, subway, etc.)			
	Indicate the rate of pay you received on your last job:\$ per What is the minimum starting rate of pay you will accept?\$ per			
	Can you start work immediately? If no, please explain			
8.	Are you attending or planning to attend any school or taking any course of study or training?			
	Do you have any business or engage in any activity that brings in income or might result in future income? If yes, explain:			
10.	While claiming benefits have you performed or are you performing any service for the business of a friend or relative, either with or without pay?			
11.	Are you receiving or have you applied for workers' compensation or disability benefits?			

CONTINUE ON REVERSE SIDE

12a. Are you receiving or have you applied for any pension or social security benefits?b. If yes, do you limit yourself to the type of work, hours or days of work, or amount of earnings that you would accept because of the above benefits?13. Have you received or are you going to receive any vacation or holiday pay during your present period of unemployment?	YES	NO				
14a Does your regular occupation require shift work?b. If yes, what shifts will you work?						
I HAVE ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS, KNOWING THAT THE LAW PROVIDES PENALTIES FOR MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS. I UNDERSTAND THAT I MUST PROMPTLY REPORT ANY CHANGES IN THE INFORMATION GIVEN ON THIS REPORT.						
DATESIGNATURE OF CLAIMANT						
CLAIMS EXAMINER DATE OF NEXT INTERVIEW						
LOCAL OFFICE COMMENTS:						
UIB63 (8-89)						

CONTINUED INTERSTATE CLAIM

1.	CLAIMANT'S NAME (First, Middle, Initial, Last)	2. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	
3.	MAILING ADDRESS: (No., Street, Route, P. O. Box , Apt. No.)	4. LIABLE STATE (Do Not Abbreviate)	
	CITY COUNTY STATE	ZIP CODE 5.	
		8. CLAIM FOR WEEK ENDING:	
6.	TELEPHONE NO. (Include Area Code) 7. HAVE YOU MO YOU LAST FIL		
	()	□ No	
9.	Did you work or earn wages of any kind during the week clai If "Yes," complete the section below for each day you worked SHOW GROSS EARNINGS BEFORE DEDUCTIONS	d or earned wages.	
	DATE NO. OF HOURS EMI	PLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS GROSS DAILY PAY	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
	Reasons for separation from	Still Working Other * A Retirement Pension: Yes No If "Yes," enter amount below: A Training Allowance: Yes No \$	
12.	For the week(s) claimed above, did you receive income from or more of the following sources?	one 13. During the week(s) claimed above, were you:	
	If "Yes," enter the amount(s) below: a. Earnings from self-employment \$	a. Able to work	
	b. Commission payments c. Wage in lieu of notice \$	b. Available for work	
	d. Dismissal or severance pay e. Vacation pay	c. Offered any jobs you refused Yes* No	
	f. Holiday pay \$	d. In training/attending school ☐ Yes* ☐ No	
	g. Tips and gratuities \$ h. Board, or room, or both \$	e. Working on a commission basis	
	i. Worker's Compensation \$	f. Self-employed	
		g. Claiming benefits under any other Unemployment Insurance Law?	
NO	TE: For any amount entered in items 11 and 12, show in "Re if applicable.	marks" the source, period covered by payment and the Employer's name and address,	
14.	Use L.O. stamp or enter L.O. address, phone, number, and I.I number.	D. 15. FOR USE OF LIABLE STATE	
	Local Office 002		
	(340) 773-1440 P. O. Box 789		
	Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I. 00821-0789		
ltin	erant Location		

State Name and Code: IB-2 (page 1) Rev. 10/88

16.	During th	ne week claimed in item	9 (front), list the employers, labor unions,	and others you contacte	ed to find work:	
	Date	Places	Address and	Method of	Type of Work	Results
		Contacted	Telephone Number	Contact	Sought	
			(
-			()			
			()			
			,			
-			()			
			(
			,			
			()			
17.	If you did					
	for work	, explain why:				
18.	If you ha	ve returned	BEGINNING E	MPLOYER		
	to work,	enter:	DATE:	NAME:		
19.	REMARK	(S: Give below any inf	ormation regarding items requiring clarific	cation:		
20.	I HEREB	Y register for work and	claim unemployment benefits. I am unemp	oloyed, able to work, exce	ept as stated hereon	. I have been informed that I must
	report as	directed to continue m	y registration for work and my claim for be	enefits. I understand that	the law prescribes	penalties for false statements made
		urpose obtaining benen ny knowledge and belief	ts not due or of increasing benefits. I here :	by certify that the staten	ients made in conne	ection with this claim are true to the
CL	AIMANT'S				DAT	E:
SIG	NATURE:					
			CLAIMANT: DO NOT W	RITE BELOW THIS LINE		
	CLAIMS		lity review conducted at the time this clair	m was taken?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
22.	REMARK					
-						
					1	
23.	CLAIMS	TAKER'S			DAT	Œ:
	SIGNATI	IDE.				

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

INITIAL APPLICATION FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (DUA)

FOR OFFICE USE						
Local Office No.	Residence FIPS					
FEMA No.	Date Filed					

Applicant's Name (Leat First	: Middle)		Social Soci	urity No	Last Day Worked	Announcement Date				
Applicant's Name (Last, First, Middle)			Social Sec	unity No.	Last Day Worked Announcem					
Street Address					Are you a student? □Y	es □No				
City State			Zip Code	County Name	Do you have a disability? □Y					
	C mail address		D ((D) ()		Are you a U.S. Citizen? □Y If "No" Alien Registration No					
Telephone No.	E-mail address		Date of Birth (Mo., Day, Yr.,)	Sex Male Female					
Ethnic Group (For Statistical	L Purposes Only). Indica	ate by selecting one of t	the following:	Race (For Statistical P	Purposes Only). Indicate by selecti	ing one of the following:				
☐ Hispanic or Latino	☐ Choose not to	,		□ White □ Asian	☐ Black o	or African American an Indian or Alaska Native				
	□ Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian □ Choose not to answer									
A. SELF-EMPLOYED APPL					Employed Individual)					
If all income is from a busines	ss or farm that is incorp	orated you are not con	sidered self-emp	loyed.						
At the time of the disaster:	10 514 514	15 (2) (2) (1)		•						
a. Were you self-employe				gan?						
b. If you were not self-em B. CORPORATE OFFICER		gin seir-employment? L	Tres Lino if	yes, explain in Remar	rks.					
Are you a corporate office		ons) or an owner of a c	corporation?	□Yes □No						
C. EMPLOYED APPLICANT	· · · · · ·		orporation:	2103 2110						
As a result of the disaster:	•									
1. Was your place of employ	ment closed? □Yes	□No								
If "Yes", reason for closure	e									
Date Closed:										
D. ALL APPLICANTS	your place or employm	<u> </u>								
Were you injured as a res	ult of the disaster?	□Yes □No			usehold due to a death caused by	the disaster? □Yes □No				
				ain in "Remarks."						
Was your employment sea	asonal? □Yes □No	If "Yes", date season	typically began:_		Date season typically end	ed:				
4. Were you to start a new jo		If "Yes", date you wer	-							
Reason you could not star		•		Other If Other, explanation						
Rate of pay you were to re		per		Number of hours per	r week you were to work					
Name and address of pros	spective employer									
			County Name:_							
Telephone No. (· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							
E. OTHER COMPENSATION	N									
Have you applied for or will y	ou receive:	Applied	Receiving	Monthly A	Amount Period Co From	vered <i>(Mo., Day, Yr.)</i> To				
Any state, federal or railroad	UI?	□Yes □No □Y	es □No □Pe	ending \$						
Compensation for disability of	r illness?	□Yes □No □Y	es □No □Pe	ending \$						
Private income protection ins	urance?	□Yes □No □Y	es □No □Pe	ending \$						
Holiday or vacation pay?		□Yes □No □Y	es □No □Pe	ending \$						
Pension or retirement benefit (Not including Social Security	ension or retirement benefits?									

F. EMPLOYER (OR BUSINESS) NAME AT THE TIME OF THE DISASTER				
Street Address			Dates of Employ	ment
	1	From	То	
City	State	Zip Cod	e	
County Name		Telepho	one No.	
Occupation with this Employer		Next Da (Mo., Da	ite You Would Have Work ay, Yr.)	ed if Not for Disaster
G. APPLICANT EMPLOYMENT OR SELF-EMPLOYMENT DURING TAX YEA			CENT TAX YEAR PRIOR	
**Self-employment: Include all net income from non-incorporated self-emp 4797.	bloyment. Do not include income that	is on Intern	al Revenue Service For	m 4835 or Form
Name and Address of Employer (Check if Self-Employment □)	Telephone No,		No. of Hours Worked Per Week	Weekly Wage
	Period Worked: From To		Documentation	<u> </u>
	Total Earnings or Net Income fro	om	1	
	Con Employment			
2. Name and Address of Employer (Check if Self-Employment □)	Telephone No,		No. of Hours Worked Per Week	Weekly Wage
	Period Worked: From To		Documentation	<u> </u>
	Total Earnings or Net Income from Self-Employment	om		
3. Name and Address of Employer (Check if Self-Employment □)	Telephone No,		No. of Hours Worked Per Week	Weekly Wage
	Period Worked: From To		Documentation	
	Total Earnings or Net Income from Self-Employment	om		
	'		l	
H. CHECK LIST - Ssubmit the information below within 21 days to	:			
☐ Proof of self-employment earnings for the most recent tax ye	ar (IRS Form 1040 with Schedule (C. C-EZ. F.	or SE if partnership or	incorporated
also include 1065 or 1120s with Schedule K1)		o, o, . ,	о. од ралалоголар о.	oo.po.atoa
☐ Proof of wages immediately preceding the disaster (Last pay				
Proof self-employed applicant's business was in operation th contracts, payment invoices, etc. NOTE: only one document		receipts, de	elivery notices,	
☐ Documentation of court ordered garnishment, if applicable				
☐ Documentation to substantiate employment or self-employment	ent was to begin at the time of the o	disaster (W	ritten notice from prosp	ective employer,
rental agreement, contracts, etc.)	Anima dadi wiya walka a aliana aka w			
Medical documentation to substantiate that an injury was sus	stained during the disaster			
I CERTIFY that all of the information I have given on this application and that I have supplied this information in order to obtain DISAST provided and that under 18 U.S.C. 1001 I may be subject to prosect obtain DUA to which I am not entitled. I am furnishing my Social Secfederal taxable income and for determining my entitlement to DUA. my DUA application may be disclosed only as is allowed with respect	FER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTAN cution for willfully concealing mater curity Number as required under 26 I UNDERSTAND, in accordance w	NCE (DUA) ial facts or 5 U.S.C. 61 vith 20 CFF). I understand that F knowingly making a f 109(d) for purposes of R 625.16(b), that inforn	ederal funds are alse statement to reporting DUA as nation concerning
Signature of Applicant				
Signature of Agency Official			Date	

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (DUA) FACT-FINDING QUESTIONNAIRE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

		APPLICANT'S NAME:
		SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:
Ple	ase	complete all items. Failure to complete all items may delay processing of your claim.
1.		ase provide a telephone number and e-mail address where you can be reached in case we need to contact you to rify your answers.
	Hoi	me Telephone No.: () Work Telephone No.: ()
	Ter	mporary telephone number due to the disaster: ()
	E-n	nail address:
2.	Wa	s your unemployment a direct result of the disaster? □Yes □No
3.	Sta	te the specific cause of unemployment
4.	a.	Did you contact your employer to see if work is available for you? □Yes □No
	b.	If yes, what date(s) did you contact your employer?
5.	a.	On what dates was work available?
	b.	Did you accept all work available to you? □Yes □No
	c.	If no, why not?
6.	a.	If work was available with your employer, did you stay home from work solely to attend to the disaster-related damage to your home? \square Yes \square No
	b.	If yes, what dates?
7.	a.	Was your primary means of transportation to work available? □Yes □No
		If no, state why and the dates it was unavailable.
	b.	Were alternate means of transportation available? □Yes □No
		If yes, did you use those alternate means of transportation? □Yes □No
		If no, state why.
	C.	If you do not have transportation, is it because you left the area to stay somewhere other than an evacuation center? □Yes □No
8.	a.	Were/Are the roads you use to go to work open? □Yes □No
		If no, state which roads were closed and the dates they were closed.
	b.	Were alternate routes to go to work available? □Yes □No
	c.	If yes, did you use the alternate routes? □Yes □No
		If no. state why.

9.	a.	Did you or will you receive pay	yment for any period after yo	ur last day of work	□Yes</th <th>□No</th>	□No
	b.	If yes, what does this paymen	t represent (sick, holiday, vac	cation, etc.) and w	rho is this payment	from?
	C.	List the days you are being pa	aid for and the gross amounts	3.		
		Date(s)	Paid	Date(s)	Paid	
		Date(s)	Paid	Date(s)	Paid	
		Date(s)	Paid	Date(s)	Paid	
		Date(s)	Paid	Date(s)	Paid	
10.		e you receiving a pension or oth				□No
11.	Wa	s your employment your prima	ry source of earned income?	□Yes □N	lo	
	Exa	amples of primary income source	ces are Social Security, pens	ion, alimony, othe	r work or business.	
	If y	our employment was not your p	primary source of income, ex	olain.		
12.	a.	If you were not employed at the	ne time of the disaster, did yo	u have a definite ¡	promise to begin w	ork? □Yes □No
	b.	If yes, what date were you to s	start?			_
	C.	Name, address, and phone nu	umber of the company			
13.	a.	Were you injured as a result o	of the disaster? □Yes	□No		_
	b.	If yes, what is the injury?				
	C.	What is the period of disability	?			
	d.	Did the injury prevent you from				vided if requested).
14.	a.	Are you a full-time student?	□Yes □No			
	b.	If yes, indicate the name of sc	chool and number of hours in	attendance per w	eek	
15.	a.	Was your employment seasor	nal? □Yes □No			
	b.	If yes, date season typically be	egan	, date season typi	cally ended	
obt pre	ain scrit	that the information I have give DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT bed by law for willful misrepres am not entitled to receive unde	T ASSISTANCE. I know t sentation or concealment of	hat Federal fund	's are provided ar	nd that penalties are
App	olica	nt's Signature			Date	
Age	ency	Official Signature			Date	

	DISASTER NO.					
Virgin Islands Department of Labor Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)	FEMA			DR		
Weekly Claim Form	Local Office No					
APPLICANT'S NAME (Last, First, Middle)	SOCIAL SECURI	ITY NUN	MBER			
ADDRESS (No., Street, City, State, ZIP Code) Claim Week Ending Date						
APPLICANT REQUEST						
1. Did you work for anyone, earn wages, or were self-employed during the week claims complete the "EARNINGS STATEMENT" on the reverse of this form.	ed? If yes,	ί γ	ÆS	Í	NO	
2. Did you receive Holiday Pay or Vacation Pay during the week claimed? If yes, comp "EARNINGS STATEMENT" on the reverse of this form.	plete the	1 Y	/ES	í	NO	
Were you able and available for suitable work during the week claimed? If no, explain under "COMMENTS" on the reverse of this form.				Ĩ	NO	
4. Did you receive a retirement pension or annuity from a base-year employer not previously reported to Unemployment? If yes, explain under "COMMENTS" on the reverse of this form.				Ĩ	NO	
5. Did you refuse any suitable work offered during the week claimed? If yes, explain under "COMMENTS" on the reverse of this form.				í	NO	
6. Did you receive or apply for compensation from another State or the Federal Government? If yes, explain under "COMMENTS" on the reverse of this form.				NO		
7. Have you received or applied for supplemental unemployment benefits? If yes, explain under "COMMENTS" on the reverse of this form.				NO		
8. Have you received or applied for any compensation from private income insurance? If yes, explain under "COMMENTS" on the reverse of this form.				NO		
9. Have you contacted your last employer to determine if work was available during this week? If yes, explain under "COMMENTS" on the reverse of this form.				ĺ	NO	
APPLICANT CERTIFICATION						
I CERTIFY that the information I have given on this form is correct, and that I have supplied the information voluntarily, in order to obtain DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE. I know that Federal funds are provided and that penalties are prescribed by law for willful misrepresentation or concealment of material facts in order to obtain assistance payments to which I am not entitled to receive under the ACT.						
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT		DATE	(Mo.,	Day,	Yr.)	
STATE AGENCY DETERMINATION						
Amount of DUA Payment Authorized for the Week \$ Reason	n for Determination	on				
DUA Reduced or Denied for the Week Claimed Above DUA Termination Date						
SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE DATE AUTHORIZE	D (Month, Day, Yo	ear)				

EARNINGS STATEMENT:		
Employer(s) – (Enter Name and Address)	Date Worked	Gross Pay
1.		\$
2.		\$
3.		\$
4.		\$
COMMENTS:		

PLEASE NOTE

The following six pages contains two forms:

Supplemental Application for DUA Self-Employed Individuals:

This form should only be completed if the claimant was self-employed at the time of the disaster and is unable to work due to disaster.

Breadwinner-Head of Household Application:

This form should only be completed if the claimant became the head of household and is seeking work because the former head of household died as a result of the disaster may also qualify for DUA benefits

			GIN ISLANDS D PPLEMENT TO SELF-EMPLO	APPLICATION	ON FOR I				
Applicar	nt's Name (Last, First, Middle	ne (Last, First, Middle) Disaster No. Local Office No. Social Security No.					urity No	-	
				FEMA -	- DR				
Business Name and Address (No. Street, City, State, Zip Code)				TYPE OF	SELF-EMP	LOYMENT (Ched	k Appropr	iate Bo	oxes)
		, . , ,			<u> </u>	ENGAGED IN:			
			_	☐ Farmir	ng	☐ Business		☐ Profe	ession
					AS A:		Percen	tage of	Ownership
				☐ Sole Ov	vner	☐ Partner			
A. FAF	RMING ACTIVITY (If app	licable)		Size of Farm (I	n Acres):				
In colu	mns below, list all farm	nroducts rai	sed and held norm	anontly for sa	le and farm	income			
III COIG	CROPS	products rai		/ESTOCK	ic and laini		TUED (Sno	oifu)	
		40050			INCOME		THER (Spe	City)	INCOME.
	KIND	ACRES	KIND)	INCOME	K	IND		INCOME
B. SEL	F-EMPLOYMENT INFOR	RMATION (Ar	nswer all questions	in this part)					
1. De	scribe the nature of your	self-employm	ent. Indicate how lo	ng you have be	en performii	ng it			
2. a.	What are the days and	hours of norm	nal operation of your	business?					
b.	What days and hours di	id you actually	y work?						
3. Die	d you have any partners?						□Yes	□No)
If y	es, please provide the fol	llowing inform	ation						
	N	lame		S	ocial Securit	y No.	Percentag	e of Ov	vnership
4. Dio	d you have other employe	ees prior to the	e disaster?				□Yes	□No)
lf y	es, how many and what i	s their current	t employment status	?					
5. a.	What were your duties a	and normal da	ays and hours of wo	rk?					
b.	Were you performing th	ose duties at	the time of the disas	ster?			□Yes	□No)
	If no, please explain								
6. Ho	w did the disaster impact	your self-emp	oloyment (damages,	lost jobs, lost i	ncome, etc.)?			

7.	7. Do you plan to reopen this business?				□No		
	If y	es, on what date and what have you done to	o restore your business?				
	If no, please explain and what are you doing or what do you plan to do to secure employment?						
8.	a.	Were you self-employed part-time prior to		□Yes	□No		
		If yes, please explain why.					
	b.	Do you restrict yourself to part-time work?		□Yes	□No		
		If yes, why?					
9.	V	/as your self-employment your primary sour	ce of earned income?	□Yes	□No		
	Е	examples of primary income sources are So	cial Security, pension, alimony, other work or	business.			
	If your self-employment was not your primary source of income, explain.						
10.	D. At the time of the disaster, did you or do you now have any business, business location(s), or occupation (job), <i>other</i> than the self-employment at this location? □Yes □No						
	If yes, provide name and address of business, business location(s) or occupation.						
	Describe the effect the disaster has had on this <i>other</i> business/location(s)/occupation.						
	What is the current gross income from this <i>other</i> business/location(s)/occupation?						
11.	D	o you have any other sources of income?		□Yes	□No		
	lf	yes, please explain					
12.	 Did you receive or will you receive any income continuation pay, business interruption insurance, or any other wage replacement income? 						
	lf	yes, complete the following information:					
		Type of Payment	Amount	Time Period (Covered		
13.	W	hat was your gross income for the business	s in the prior tax year?				
14.	W	as your business seasonal?		□Yes	□No		
	If yes, between what dates was your business normally in operation in prior years?						

	AMILY BUSINESS INFORMATION				C. FAMILY DURINESS INFORMATION						
1.	Were you employed in a family business		□Yes	□No							
2.	How many adults were employed in the										
3.	How many minors (not adults) were emp										
4.	Were you a minor employed in a family b		·		□Yes	□No					
		•			- 103						
5.	The tax year for the family business star					. 16 . 6. 1 0 . 1					
You must complete the following questions. Your DUA rate will be based on an equal rate for each adult family member. If you feel that your DUA rate should be based on a rate higher than an equal portion of the net family business income, you must provide a percentage of net income for all family members of the business. Include income for minors employed in the family business.											
	MEMBERS OF FAMILY BUSINESS	SOCIAL SECU	JRITY NUMBER		TAGE OF W						
D A	DDI ICANT EMPLOYMENT										
In o emp entir	D. APPLICANT EMPLOYMENT In order to compute the amount of my weekly entitlement to Disaster Unemployment Assistance I certify that I had the following self-employment, net earnings during the tax year 2016 (the most recent tax year prior to the disaster). Family businesses must indicate the entire family business income. If the information below was provided on the Initial Claim Form, enter "SAME" in the appropriate blocks.										
(Report net earnings from self-employment – DO NOT REPORT GF Name and Address of Business		Weeks Earned \$167 or More	Net Earnings	For Office Use Documentation or Oth Proof of Earnings							
						ntation or Other					
						ntation or Other					
						ntation or Other					
						ntation or Other					
			Total Weeks	Total Earnings		ntation or Other					
	PPLICANT CERTIFICATION				Proof	ntation or Other of Earnings					
I CE	PPLICANT CERTIFICATION ERTIFY that the information I have given ASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE representation or concealment of material	. I know that Federa	t and that I have supp	lied the information	Proof voluntarily i e prescribed	n order to obtain by law for willful					
I CE DIS/ misr Act.	RTIFY that the information I have given ASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE	. I know that Federa facts in order to obta	t and that I have supp	lied the information	Proof voluntarily i e prescribed	n order to obtain by law for willful					
I CE DIS/ misr Act.	RTIFY that the information I have given ASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE representation or concealment of material	. I know that Federa facts in order to obta	t and that I have supp I funds are provided a in assistance payment	lied the information and that penalties are to which I am no	Proof voluntarily i e prescribed	n order to obtain by law for willful					
I CE DIS/ misr Act. Sign	RTIFY that the information I have given ASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE representation or concealment of material	. I know that Federa facts in order to obta	t and that I have supp I funds are provided a in assistance payment	lied the information and that penalties are to which I am no	Proof voluntarily i e prescribed	n order to obtain by law for willful					

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARMENT OF LABOR

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (DUA)

BREADWINNER – HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD APPLICATION

Disa	saster Name: Disaster No.:			:				
Claimant Name: SS#:								
Age	ency Official:				_		Tel.:	
A. .	APPLICANT REQUEST							
]	Last Day of Work: Last	Occup	pation:					
]	Name and Address of Last employer ((includ	ding county	<u>):</u>				
]	Name:	•	-					
	Address:							
	City:	(County:				State:	ZIP:
	This application is made for DISA unemployment resulting from the						or the per	riod of
2	2. Was your unemployment caused b	y the	disaster? _		_			
	totally or partially unemployed du from self-employment. Claiming benefits for week(s) ending Sur	nday						
								TH FR ST SN
	a. Did you work (including self-employn If "YES," indicate the day(s).	nent)?	□YES	□NO	□YES		☐YES	
	Including self employment, did you emore than \$420 in gross wages?	arn	□YES		□YES	□NO	□YES	
	b. Were there any days you were not read willing or able to work?	dy,	□YES	□NO	□YES	□NO	□YES	□NO
	If "YES," indicate the day(s).							
	c. Did you refuse any job offer or job ref	erral?	YES	□NO	YES	□NO	YES	□NO
	Claiming benefits for week(s) ending Sur		MN TU WE TH	I FR ST SN	MN TU WE T	H FR ST SN	MN TU WE	TH FR ST SN
	a. Did you work (including self-employn If "YES," indicate the day(s).	nent)?	□YES	NO]	□YES	NO	□YES	NO
	Including self employment, did you earnore than \$420 in gross wages?		□YES	□NO	□YES	□NO	□YES	□NO
	b. Were there any days you were not read willing or able to work?	dy,	□YES	□NO	□YES	□NO	□YES	□NO
	If "YES," indicate the day(s).	2 10						
	c. Did you refuse any job offer or job ref	erral?	□YES	□NO	YES	□NO	YES	□NO

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARMENT OF LABOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (DUA)

BREADWINNER – HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD APPLICATION

Disast	er No.:	SS#:_	
2.	For the weeks you identified on the previous page: a. Did you apply for or receive unemployment insurance under any State or Extended Benefits)?	Federal law (in	ncluding
	b. Were any amounts payable to you;(1) from any source for loss of wages due to illness or disability?(2) from any type of private income protection insurance?(3) as a supplemental unemployment benefit (SUB)?	☐ YES ☐ YES ☐ YES	□ NO □ NO □ NO
3.	Were you able and available for work during these weeks?	YES	□NO
4.	Did you accept all work offered during these weeks?	YES	□NO
C. SI	JPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT BREADWINNER OR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	ASSISTANC	E
1.	Have you become the breadwinner or major support because the head of hou result of the major disaster?	sehold has died	d as a direct
2.	Was the deceased the head of the household?	YES	□NO
3.	Did the head of household die as a direct result of the major disaster?	YES	□NO
4.	Has the applicant entered the labor market and begun seeking suitable work?	YES	□NO
5.	Please supply the following information Regarding the Deceased Head of Ho Name: (Last, First, Middle)	ousehold. SS#:	
	U.S. Citizen? YES NO: Date of entry: What were the circumstances of the death of head of household?		
6.	Is there any reason you cannot accept full-time employment? If "YES," please explain.	YES	□NO
7.	Did you apply for or receive, or would you have been eligible to receive if you the following? If "YES," please check all applicable boxes.	YES	NO
		ne Protection In	
	Survivors Benefits Paid By Workers Compensation Social Security Survivors Benefits Paid By Workers Compensation	ension Or Annity Benefits	uity
	Other: (SPECIFY)		

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARMENT OF LABOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (DUA) BREADWINNER – HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD APPLICATION

Disaster No.:	SS#:
8. If you were injured or were ill as a direct result of the disaster, please answer the for Date you were or expect to be able and available for work: Date the injury/illness began: Description of the injury/illness, how it occurred and explain if you are not able and	
III.APPLICANT CERTIFICATION	
I certify that the information I have given on this form is correct. I have supplied the in	nformation
voluntarily in order to obtain DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE . I kno	w that Federal funds
are provided and that penalties are prescribed by law for willful misrepresentation or	concealment of
material facts in order to obtain assistance payments which I am not entitled to receive	e under the act. I
understand that if it is determined that I am not eligible for benefits I have a right to a	hearing before an
administrative law judge at no cost or obligation. Failure to repay any benefits that I	received because I
withheld information or gave false information to the Department of Labor may result	in the Department of
Labor taking legal action to file a judgment against me. Once entered, a judgment is g	good and can be used
against me for twenty years, and my money, including a portion of my paycheck and/or	r bank account, may
be taken. Also, a judgment will hurt my credit score and can affect my ability to rent a	home, find a job, or

☐ ABOVE STATEMENT WAS READ TO THE CLAIMANT. THE CLAIMANT AGREED WITH THE

take out a loan.

STATEMENT.

ATTACHMENTS

Pg. 24-31 Claimant Benefit Rights and Responsibilities for Receiving UI Benefits Handbook



Unemployment Insurance Division



Claimant Handbook

Commissioner of Labor, Catherine Hendry, Esq.

Assistant Commissioner of Labor, Wean William Farrell

Director of Unemployment, Elston George

Claimant Benefit Rights and Responsibilities A Guide for Receiving UI Benefits

This handbook is issued by the United States Virgin Islands Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division. It contains specific information about your Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit **rights** and **responsibilities**, in compliance with the United States Virgin Islands Unemployment Insurance laws. However, the information is not intended to cover <u>all</u> provisions of the law. Please feel free to contact the Unemployment Insurance Division, in person or by calling the telephone number(s) listed in this handbook, for more detailed information regarding your claim. Your primary responsibility as a UI claimant is to understand the information contained in this handbook.

NOTE: It is your responsibility for keeping this booklet in proper condition.

READ THIS HANDBOOK COMPLETELY AND CAREFULLY

Failure to follow the instructions in this handbook, to make timely inquiries when necessary, to report as directed, to file required documents in a timely manner, or to file claim forms as directed, may result in delay, denial or loss of your unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Do not rely on advice from family, relatives or friends.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding your claim, please contact the United States Virgin Islands Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division office. Also, visit our website at www.vidol.gov

St. Croix:

US Virgin Islands Department of Labor

4401 Sion Farm

Christiansted, VI 00820-4245

Tel: (340) 773-1994

Fax: (340) 713-3420

St. Thomas:

US Virgin Islands Department of Labor

2353 Kronprindsens Gade

St. Thomas, VI 00802

Tel: (340) 776-3700

Fax: (340) 715-5731

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Background

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) program had its legal origin under the 1930's Social Security Act. Each State within the United States of America operated its own unemployment insurance program based on Federal laws and guidelines. The requirements for eligibility and the amount of UI benefits payable were determined by the individual States in compliance with these laws and guidelines. In June 1961, the United States Virgin Islands' Legislature added Chapter 12 to Title 24 of the US Virgin Islands Code which declared, among other things, that "economic insecurity is a threat to the health, morals, and welfare of the people of the US Virgin Islands. The law is intended to provide for the continued economic stability of the US Virgin Islands." This law, as enacted and amended, is referred to as the United States Virgin Islands Unemployment Insurance Act of 1961. Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits are financed primarily from a tax on employers' payroll, which is deposited on behalf of the US Virgin Islands government into a Federal Trust Fund. Monies from this fund are only used to pay UI benefits to eligible unemployed US Virgin Islands workers when they are separated from employment (laid-off) through no fault of their own. It is worth noting that no deductions are made from employees' wages in order to pay unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit is a privilege provided that you, the claimant, meet all the eligibility requirements of the law.

The Process

Every unemployment insurance claimant, like you, <u>must</u> provide the following information when filing for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit:

- **-Identification Card**: Alien Resident Card, Driver's License, or any other valid and legally acceptable form of identification
- -Social Security Card
- -Last Employer's Separation (laid-off/discharged) Letter
- -Last Check Stub(s)
- -DD-214 Form (US Military)
- -SF-8 / SF-50 Form (Federal Civilian).

After your <u>initial claim</u> has been established, you, the claimant, will receive a **claim package** within two (2) weeks. If you do not receive your claim package, please contact the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division office.

Your Claim Package Will Contain the following Forms:

- -Initial Claim
- -Monetary Determination
- -Certification
- -Work Search
- Other pertinent documents

Once You Receive Your Claim Package Documents, Make Sure That:

-Your Social Security Number, Mailing Address, E-mail Address and Zip Code are correct on all required forms.

- -Your Name and Signature are correctly spelt on $\underline{\text{all}}$ required forms
- -You, the claimant, have provided your <u>correct</u> Home and/or Work Telephone Number(s) on <u>all</u> required forms.
- -You, the claimant, have completed all required forms legibly, accurately, and in sufficient detail.

Eligibility

The requirements in order to receive Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits vary between States. However, each State requires that the claimant qualify under both <u>non-monetary</u> and monetary determination.

Non-Monetary Determination

- -You, the claimant, are unemployed through no fault of your own.
- -You, the claimant, are partially employed.
- -You, the claimant, are able to, available for, and actively seeking work.
- -You, the claimant, earned, at least, \$858.00 in the highest quarter of your base period.
- -Your <u>total wages</u> must be, at least, <u>one and one half times</u> your highest quarter in the base period.

Monetary Determination

- -The form represents a wage transcript benefit computation.
- -Monetary eligibility is based on you, the claimant, having enough wages from one or more employers who paid contributions into the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund of the US Virgin Islands.
- -The form <u>does not</u> determine qualification; it is a statement providing a possible weekly benefit amount (WBA) and an overall maximum benefit amount (MBA) should you, the claimant, be considered eligible for UI benefits.
- -The form also lists all employers who had reported wages for you, the claimant.

Missing or Incorrect Wages:

- -You, the claimant, cannot receive Unemployment Insurance benefits on wages reported by an employer that you did not perform.
- -You, the claimant, will be required to repay any Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits which were received by you, for missing or incorrectly reported wages.
- -In case of missing wages, you, the claimant, must provide <u>all</u> appropriate evidence (such as copies of check stubs, W-2 form(s) or any other legally accepted proof of employment), in order to verify that wages had been, in fact, earned/paid.
- -You, the claimant, should be aware that if some employment was performed in another State, your wages may be combined in order to establish and/or increase the eligible benefit amount in the United States Virgin Islands.

Base Period-Regular

Your <u>regular base period</u> is a twelve (12) month period, which consists of the first four (4) of the last five (5) completed **calendar quarters** before the effective date of the claim which you, the claimant, filed. Once the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division has established a monetary eligible claim, the regular base period cannot be changed.

The Calendar Quarters are determined as follows:

1st quarter - January, February and March

2nd quarter - April, May and June

3rd quarter - July, August and September

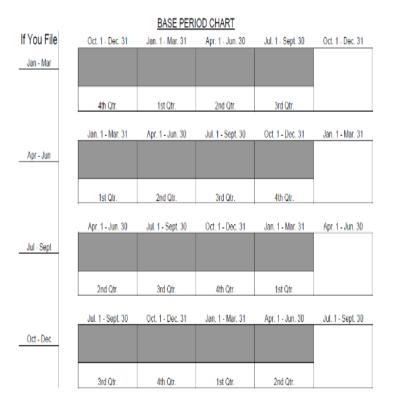
4th quarter - October, November and December

<u>Note</u>: The accompanying charts are used to help illustrate how the base periods (both regular and alternate) are determined and calculated by the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division. The shaded areas represent the regular Base Period. The non-shaded areas represent the month when the claim was filed.

Base Period-Alternate

If there is insufficient wages in the Regular Base Period to establish a claim, then you, the claimant, may qualify using the Alternate Base Period.

Please note that the Alternate Base Period can **ONLY** be used when there is not enough wages earned in the Regular Base Period. <u>Note</u>: In accordance with Federal guidelines, you, the claimant, may not be eligible to receive <u>Extended Benefits</u>, if the claim falls within the Alternate Base Period.



Benefit Year

Your benefit year is valid for <u>one calendar year</u>, starting from the effective date that you, the claimant, filed the claim. This period is **52 weeks** from the beginning date of your filed claim. UI benefits remaining on the claim for that benefit year <u>cannot</u> be paid for weeks claimed after the claim expiration date. A new claim must be filed to determine eligibility.

<u>Note</u>: This does not mean that you, the claimant, will receive benefits for an entire year. The monetary determination represents the maximum amount of benefits which will be received during the benefit year. The full weekly benefit amount can be paid for a total of twenty six (26) weeks.

Under both United States Virgin Islands and Federal laws, wages that has already been used to determine the amount of UI benefits payable, cannot be used again in the future to file another UI claim.

Claimant WBA, MBA and MPBA

Claimant Weekly Benefit Amount- (WBA)

The amount that you, the claimant, may receive weekly is 1/26th of the highest quarter in the base period, but <u>not to exceed the maximum weekly benefit amount (WBA) allowed under United States Virgin Islands law</u>. However, it will not be less than \$33.00. For example, if during your base period, the highest calendar quarter wages were \$7763.00, then your weekly benefit amount (WBA) would be \$298.00 Therefore, using the above calculation rule, 1/26th of \$7763 is \$298.00.

Claimant Maximum Benefit Amount- (MBA) Your maximum benefit amount (MBA) is the amount of benefits available throughout the benefit year. This can vary between 13 to 26 times the weekly benefit amount.

Claimant Maximum Potential Benefit Amount-

(MPBA)The maximum potential benefit amount (MPBA) for which you, the claimant, are eligible in any benefit year shall be an amount equal to the lesser of 26 times the weekly benefit amount, or one-third (1/3) of the base period wages. For example, if during the base period, the weekly benefit amount (WBA) was \$298 multiplied by 26, then your maximum potential benefit amount (MPBA) will be \$7748.00.

Waiting Period

The laws of the United States Virgin Islands require that you, the claimant, serve an <u>unpaid waiting period</u> before receiving UI benefits. This means that you, the claimant, must certify for the week in question, and meet the same eligibility criteria as if the UI benefits of that week were to be received.

Partial Benefits

If you worked less than full-time because your employer reduced your hours or if you were self-employed for part of a week, eligibility may be determined for partial benefits, which is less than what would be received for total unemployment during that week. Therefore, you must report all work and earnings during the week for which UI benefit is being claimed even if wages were not yet paid/received for that week.

You, the claimant, are not considered unemployed during the week that full-time work is being done, regardless of how much was earned, and, therefore, a claim should not be filed for that week. However, if you, the claimant, worked part-time during a week, there would be a weekly benefit entitlement amount less \$0.75 for each dollar earned above \$15.

If your weekly benefit amount (WBA) is to be reduced because of earnings or other deductible income, and the result is not an even amount, the benefit paid is the next lower even dollar amount. For example, if the weekly benefit amount (WBA) for a week's total unemployment is \$100 and you, the claimant, earned \$25.50 during a week of partial unemployment, the benefit payment entitlement would be \$92. Amounts are always rounded down to the next lower even dollar amount if you are otherwise eligible and not disqualified. The first \$15.00 of your earnings is ignored and then \$0.75 for each dollar of earning is deducted from the weekly entitlement. Example: (\$25.50-\$15=\$10.50 X 0.75=7.88 - \$100=92.12 that is \$92.12 rounded down to \$92.00).

There may be other deductions from the weekly benefit amount (WBA) as explained below under disqualifying income. If you, the claimant, discontinue claiming benefits during the benefit year because you had returned to full-time work, but later became unemployed again, either totally or partially, you should contact the local Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division office in order to reopen a claim for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.

Certification

When Does a Claimant Certify?

You, the claimant, must file a claim certification in order to receive UI benefits. The weeks for filing begin on Sunday and end on Saturday. If you attempt to file before the week has ended, the claim will not be accepted.

When Does a Claimant Begin Receiving Benefits?

Once you, the claimant, have filed the weekly certification, a payment should be issued the following day, <u>unless</u> there are issues on your claim that are being investigated or you were not monetarily eligible at that point in time. Please note that payment will <u>not</u> always be received on the same day of the week. Payments may be delayed for various reasons, such as holidays, technical problems, or failure to respond to a request from the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division office.

Late Certification

If you, the claimant, file the weekly claim certification, **fifteen** (15) or more calendar days after the weekend in question has ended, unemployment benefits may not be paid to you for those back weeks, but the claim will be re-opened.

Certifying Via the Website Portal

The Claimant Portal provides access to filing your weekly certification on-line via Internet which will expedite the payment of your benefits. The Portal will provide information on your claim, information on your last payment, and will allow you to file your weekly certification and your work search information electronically. Before you use the Claimant Portal, you will need to complete the "Username and Password Request Form". The local office will provide the website information, user ID and password. It will be necessary for you to have a valid e-mail address to utilize the system for accessing the website for filing the weekly certifications and work search.

Reporting Earnings and Income

You, the claimant, must report the following during any week:

- -Gross earnings whether or not you had received payment
- -Self Employment
- -Separation Pay: Vacation, Severance, Holiday, Bonus, In lieu of notice, Annual leave, etc.
- -Commissions
- -Retroactive Payments

<u>Note</u>: All earnings should be reported in the week it was earned, and not when it was paid.

Disqualification

You may be monetarily eligible for unemployment benefits and still be denied such benefits. Any situation that may prevent you from receiving UI benefits is called an "ISSUE". If UI benefits are denied, you will be issued a determination in writing indicating the reason(s) for denial, the Section of the UI law under which the denial was based, and your Rights of Appeal.

You, the Claimant, May Be Disqualified for:

- -Being fired or suspended from the last job due to misconduct,
- -Applied or currently receiving Worker's Compensation,
- -Inappropriate reporting or non-reporting earnings,
- -Reasons relating to a Labor Dispute (*Certain conditions apply*)
- -Fraud / Misrepresentation,
- -Voluntarily leaving your last job without good cause,
- -Receiving retirement pay. (Certain conditions apply)
- -Not being able to, available for and actively seeking work.
- -Receiving payments such as severance, vacation, annual leave, holiday, bonus, in lieu of notice, back pay awards, etc., (Disqualified only for a period of weeks)
- -Not being authorized to work in the U.S.,
- -Being employed by an educational institution, (Certain conditions apply)
- -Attending school or college and not being available for work,
- -Refusing a bona-fide job offer or job referral for suitable work
- -Failing to accept work or failing to participate in reemployment services,
- -Being on Maternity Leave.

Appeals

You, the claimant, must file an appeal within the time limits stated in the determination notice. This important step cannot be delayed or you may be denied the right to have a full hearing on the merits. The appeal request must be in writing and may be in the form of a letter clearly requesting and providing the reason(s) for the hearing. The letter has to be attached to an appeal form, which you can obtain from the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division. Your employer(s) also reserves the right to appeal the decision.

You, the claimant, will later be given a <u>notice in writing</u> indicating where and when the appeal hearing will be held. You may present all relevant evidence and witnesses during that hearing. However, you <u>must</u> attend the appeal hearing, in person; otherwise you may lose that appeal for failure to appear. Note: If you are outside the VI territory your appeal hearing will be telephonically.

If you, the claimant, disagree with the decision of the Appeal Examiner, you may file an appeal with the Superior Court of the U.S. Virgin Islands. You must file such an appeal within the time limits as stated on the Notice of decision from the Appeals Examiner and follow the courts' procedures.

If You, the Claimant, Continue To Be Unemployed While The Appeal Is Still Pending:

You must continue to file your Certifications as usual for each week you are unemployed, continue seeking employment and meet all other eligibility requirements. Even though an appeal decision may find you eligible for benefits, no weeks will be paid for which you have not filed a claim in accordance with the requirements.

<u>Note</u>: You, the claimant, must continue the certification process and comply with the eligibility requirements. If the final decision is made on your behalf, then benefits will be received for those weeks in question.

Continuing with Eligibility

Once you, the claimant, have filed and established a claim, all eligibility requirements must continue to be fulfilled in order to continue receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

Work Search

You, the claimant, must start searching for work every week, beginning with the first week that a claim was established. You must keep a work search record of each employer, to include:

- -The company name, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, date of the contact and name of the person you, the claimant, had contacted.
- -Results of your contacts
- -At least two (2) different employers on different dates must be contacted each week in order to meet the minimum work search requirement.
- -You, the claimant, should make in-person, and/or E-mail contacts with company representative(s) who have <u>hiring</u> <u>authority</u>.

- -The same contacts should not be listed for consecutive weeks except for agencies that offer multiple placement services.
- -All work search contacts you, the claimant, make are subject to verification.
- -If you, the claimant, fail to make the required number of work searches each week, a denial of UI benefits and possible UI overpayment could result.
- -It is your responsibility for keeping records of all job searches and the evidence(s) of contacts.
- -If you are a seasonal worker or have a definite return to work date (within 8 weeks of filing a claim) or you are taking a training course through VIDOL, you may be exempt from work search. You must submit evidence of this information.

<u>Note</u>: If you cannot find work in a usual occupation, it is still expected that you, will search for work in other occupations in which you are qualified.

Relocation

If you, the claimant, have plans to relocate outside of the United States Virgin Islands while receiving Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits you <u>must</u> contact our agency to inform that you will be outside the VI so that you may receive information regarding your benefits.

You must also complete the "Going out of town" form. Failure to follow instructions may result in loss of benefits. You must also register with the State Workforce Agency in that state and follow that state's requirements and instructions for continued unemployment job search. You must contact the State Workforce Agency promptly, in order to comply with the registration and work search requirements of that state, otherwise, this could result in a delay or denial of UI benefits.

Additional Requirements Re-employment Services Program

You, the claimant, must participate in any Re-employment Services program, if selected to do so by the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division. Failure to attend may result in benefits being denied or delayed.

Reporting to the Local Office

You, the claimant, must return to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division if instructed to do so. The exception to this is if you are off island, and have informed the UI Division of your absence from the U.S. Virgin Islands Territory.

Exhausted Benefits

If you have exhausted UI benefits, you should contact the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division in order to find out if there are any other additional UI benefits available. If you had previously worked, then consideration for monetary eligibility may be possible.

Child Support

Deduction for Child Support

If you, the claimant, are receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, but also owe child support, the Child Support Enforcement Division will notify the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division of a child support deduction order. If you do not agree with the deduction, you must contact the Child Support Enforcement Division, since the UI Division cannot legally remove or reduce the amount of child support deduction.

1099G Information

Before the end of January of each year, you, the claimant, will be mailed a statement referred to as <u>form 1099-G</u> indicating all unemployment insurance (UI) benefits paid and all amounts deducted and withheld. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), otherwise known as the Internal Revenue Bureau (IRB) will be provided with the same information.

Confidentiality

In accordance with both Federal and State law, you can only claim UI benefits for you. Absolutely no one else can claim UI benefits on your behalf. The Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division will not disclose your personal information to anyone, including family or friends contrary to law.

Fraudulent Claims

For Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit purposes, and in accordance with existing law, **fraud** is defined as knowingly making a false statement, misrepresenting a material fact, or withholding information in order to obtain unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Any statement that you, the claimant, make in order to obtain unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will be verified. You, the claimant, will be required to repay UI benefits if fraud is detected. All fraud cases are also subject to possible criminal prosecution, fines and imprisonment.

The United States Virgin Islands Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division maintains records of wages paid by employers. One of the purposes of these records is to detect fraudulent claims filed by you, the claimant, who are working, earning wages and claiming benefits at the same time.

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division is able to detect fraudulent UI benefit claims using various methods, to include,

- -Wage and Benefits Cross-Match
- -State Directory of New Hire Cross Match (SDNH)
- -National Directory of New Hire (NDNH)
- -Tips from Public

Examples of Fraud include:

- -Failure to properly report a job hire
- -Failure to properly report job separation earnings
- -Failure to report all employment earnings

Penalties for Fraud

-Penalty of 15% of the overpayment or up to \$200.00.

Disqualification of benefits for Fraud

For first time offenders the following schedule of disqualification will be applied:

Fraud Weeks	Disqualification
1-2 weeks	4 weeks
3 weeks	12 weeks
4 weeks	16 weeks
5 weeks	26 weeks
6 weeks or more	52 weeks

If the claimant has a record of having made fraudulent claims in the past, a disqualification of 52 weeks will be assessed.

UI Overpayment Repayments

If you, the claimant, have a UI benefit overpayment, it can be repaid in one lump sum or under an installment repayment plan. However, the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division must approve all such repayment plan.

Non Payment

If you do not make a payment within 60 days, your name will be sent to the IRS for garnishment.

Voluntary Federal Tax Withholding

You, the claimant, may voluntarily elect to have <u>10 percent</u> of the gross UI benefits deducted and withheld for Federal Income Tax purposes.

Federal Income Taxes will be deducted after all other mandatory deductions have been withheld. You, the claimant, may change your decision to have Federal Income Taxes withheld from your UI benefits. However, that request must be made by you, the claimant, in writing.

Other Services

In addition to assisting you, the claimant, with your unemployment insurance benefit claim, the US Virgin Islands, Labor Department, Workforce Development staff is available to assist you with:

- -Introduction and Registration to VIeWS
- -Career guidance & Counseling
- -Referral to support services & other partner agencies
- -Access to training opportunities
- -Workforce preparation workshops
- -Testing
- -Skills and other related assessments
- -Job Search planning
- -Resume Writing
- -Access to Workforce & Labor Market Information
- -Various Services to all Veterans