

787 KAR 1:360. Overpayment waivers.

RELATES TO: 2021 Ky. Acts ch. 16, sec.2

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 341.115(1)

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 341.115(1) authorizes the secretary to promulgate administrative regulations necessary or suitable for the proper administration of KRS Chapter 341. For unemployment insurance claims between January 27, 2020 and December 31, 2020, 2021 Ky. Acts ch. 16, sec.2 authorizes the secretary to waive overpayments of unemployment insurance benefits if the secretary, upon an alleged overpayment recipient's waiver request, finds the overpayment was made without fault on the part of the recipient and if recovery of would be contrary to equity and good conscience. This administrative regulation establishes definitions and procedures for waiving overpayments pursuant to KRS Chapter 341 and Ky. Acts ch. 16, sec 2.

Section 1. Definitions.

- (1) "Benefits" means benefits as defined by KRS 341.020(4).
- (2) "Financial hardship" means:
 - (a) An individual or that individual's immediate family has experienced at least a fifty (50) percent reduction in gross earned income or loss of employment; or
 - (b) That, as a result of the recovery of the overpayment of the benefit, the individual is unable to meet daily living expenses, including expenses for food, clothing, rent, utilities, insurance, job or job search-related transportation expenses, and medical expenses.
- (3) "Office" means the Office of Unemployment Insurance within the Kentucky Labor Cabinet.
- (4) "Office error" means:
 - (a) Errors in computing the benefit rate;
 - (b) Incorrect weekly payment due to a failure to consider a deductible amount that was properly reported by a claimant;
 - (c) Payment beyond the expiration of the benefit year;
 - (d) Payment in excess of the maximum benefit amount;
 - (e) Payment under an incorrect program;
 - (f) Retroactive notice of nonmonetary determinations, except that a determination that the claimant has committed fraud is not considered "office error";
 - (g) Monetary redeterminations;
 - (h) Payment during a period of disqualification;
 - (i) Payment to a wrong claimant; or
 - (j) Erroneous payments resulting from human error in the data entry process.
- (5) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Kentucky Labor Cabinet.

Section 2. Waiver Request. An individual shall make a request for waiver of a determined overpayment within thirty (30) days of the date of the notification that the individual has been overpaid unemployment insurance benefits.

Section 3. Waivers. Upon receipt of an overpayment recipient's request for an overpayment waiver, the secretary shall issue a waiver of the alleged overpayment if the secretary determines that:

- (1) The overpayment was made pursuant to Section 4 of this administrative regulation without fault on the part of the recipient; and
- (2) Recovery would be contrary to equity and good conscience as established in Section 5 of this administrative regulation.

Section 4. No-fault Determination. For purposes of Section 3(1) of this administrative regulation, the secretary shall make a determination that the alleged overpayment was made

without fault on the part of the recipient if the overpayment of benefits resulted from:

- (1) "Office error" as defined by Section 1 of this administrative regulation; or
- (2) Auto-payment of benefits.

Section 5. Equity and Good Conscience Determination. For purposes of Section 3(2) of this administrative regulation, the secretary shall make a finding that a recovery of an alleged overpayment is contrary to equity and good conscience if an individual demonstrates that:

- (1) Recovery would cause financial hardship to the person from whom it is sought;
- (2) The alleged overpayment recipient can show, regardless of the the individual's financial circumstances, that due to the notice that the payment would be made or because of the incorrect payment, the individual has relinquished a valuable right or changed positions for the worse. This may be shown if the recipient has made substantial necessary purchases related to daily living expenses, expended substantial necessary funds on daily living expenses, or failed to seek other benefits in reliance upon the receipt of benefits; or
- (3) Recovery could be unconscionable, unjust, or unfair under the circumstances.

(47 Ky.R. 2768; 48 Ky.R. 800; eff. 11-30-2021.)