COVID-19 AND CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BASICS

- Partial compensation for the newly unemployed who have lost their job through no fault of their own.
- Recipients must be able and available to work. They must also be actively seeking work.
- Weekly Wage Benefits (WBA) amounts range from $40-$450 based on earnings.
- Benefits limited to 26 weeks.
Federal CARES Act Changes

- Recipients no longer need to actively seek work.
- Additional $600 supplement to Weekly Wage Benefits award.
- 13-week extension on UIB.
- Benefits available for ordinarily ineligible applicants, such as: business owners, the self-employed, and independent contractors.
**State Disability Insurance (SDI)**

- SDI offers short-term compensation to those who have lost wages (partial or full) due to a non-work-related illness, injury, or pregnancy.
- Ranges from 60-70% of earned income or $50-$1,300.
- 52-week limit. (Can be extended if the recipient returns to work part-time)
- PFL offers 12 paid weeks of leave time to care for a sick family member or domestic partner. PFL applies to parental leave or bonding.
- 26 weeks when caring for an injured service member.
SDI & COVID-19

- SDI one-week waiting period waived by Gov. Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order.
- Diagnosis of COVID-19 = SDI eligibility.
- Must provide certification or statement of symptoms from state or local health official.
- Benefits calculated from date of diagnosis.
PAID FAMILY LEAVE (PFL)

• PFL offers 12 paid weeks of leave time to care for a sick family member or domestic partner.
• PFL applies to parental leave or bonding.
• 26 weeks when caring for an injured military or service family member.
PFL & COVID-19

- Provides 6 of paid leave. Extends to 8 weeks on July 1, 2020.
- Eligible if family member or domestic partner diagnosed.
- Must have lost partial or full wages.
- If no diagnosis → statement of symptoms from state or local health official.
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