

Update: August 2009

Unemployment Bulletin



Oklahoma Expands UI Hearings to Evenings and Saturdays

Situation

The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission Appeals Division recently advised that unemployment insurance (UI) hearings will temporarily be scheduled to include evenings and Saturdays, in order to address a backlog of cases resulting from high unemployment and the economic recession.

What Employers Need to Know

Hearings will be scheduled for each Saturday at least throughout the month of August, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., CDT. Evening hearings are being docketed for Mondays during the month of August and on Tuesdays in September, beginning at 5:00 p.m. and continuing through the 8:00 p.m. hour, CDT.

Saturday hearings will be discontinued once backlogged cases are reduced, and evening hearings will be scaled back as the backlog issue is resolved.

Hearing postponements will not be granted based on an employer or witness being unavailable, because the employer is not open for business on Saturdays, or because an employer will have to pay overtime. A postponement request for compelling reasons or dire circumstance will be determined case by case.

What You Can Expect

The Employment Security Appeals Division advises this change is a temporary but necessary measure, and staff is working to provide as much notice as possible for evening and Saturday hearings.