

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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JONATHAN D. CARROLL STATE REPRESENTATIVE 57TH DISTRICT

7/17/2020

If you have received a debit card from IDES despite not applying for benefits, it is likely that you have been the victim of identity theft. Here are steps you should take to protect yourself from future scams, and to ensure that no unemployment benefits are taken out under your name.

Illinois Department of Employment Security

If you have access to a computer, I would recommend using the IDES online contact form and selecting "Report UI Benefit Fraud" https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/Contact-IDES_Form.aspx For further assistance, you could also email my Chief of Staff Mike at MA@RepCarroll.com.

If you do not have access to a computer, you can call the IDES Benefit Payment Control hotline at 1-800-814-0513 , or call my district office at 1-847-229-5499, and my staff will be able to assist you in reporting the fraud.

Illinois Attorney General

I would recommend reporting your identity theft to the IL Attorney General's office using the following form. https://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers/consum_id_0714.pdf . Here is a link to the ILAG's Identity Theft informational page, there should be plenty of information about what you can do on your end to protect yourself. <https://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers/hotline.html>

Federal Trade Commission

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) guidance on steps to take if you believe someone has illegally claimed unemployment benefits using your identity: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0005-identity-theft> . The FTC's IdentityTheft.gov portal, which helps people create a step-by-step recovery plan if they are victim of identity theft, is <https://identitytheft.gov/>

Checking your credit score

Through April 2021, the three major credit report services are offering free credit reports on a weekly basis at www.annualcreditreport.com