Ohio Unemployment Program Policy
Appeals Policy
Effective Date: 10/23/2026

Purpose
This policy explains how individuals and employers can appeal unemployment decisions they disagree with. It outlines the types of decisions that may be appealed, the time limits for filing, and the levels of review available under Ohio law.

Reference
Ohio Revised Code 4141.281
Ohio Revised Code 4141.282
Ohio Administrative Code 4141-19-01
Rule 4141-27-09 - Ohio Administrative Code | Ohio Laws
Rule 4141-27-10 - Ohio Administrative Code | Ohio Laws

Legal Requirements
Ohio law provides the right to appeal most unemployment decisions. The following are key requirements:

- An appeal of an initial determination must be filed within 21 calendar days of the date the determination was issued.
- An appeal of the first-level appeal decision to the UCRC must be filed within 21 calendar days of the date the redetermination was issued
- A request for review of the UCRC Hearing Officer's decision must be filed within 21 calendar days of the date that decision was issued.
- Appeals to the Court of Common Pleas must be filed within 30 days of the final decision issued by the UCRC.
- Appeal deadlines may be extended in limited situations, such as when the last day falls on a weekend or holiday.
- Appeals may be submitted by logging into your Ohio Jobs Insurance account, by mail, by fax, or by other approved electronic methods.

Definitions

Determination: A written decision issued by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) that explains eligibility for benefits or other unemployment-related issues.

Hearing Officer: A trained official who conducts hearings and issues decisions on appeals before the UCRC.

Judicial Appeal: An appeal of the UCRC's final decision to the Common Pleas Court.

Redetermination: A new decision issued by ODJFS after an appeal of an initial determination.

Unemployment Compensation Review Commission: The entity that holds hearings and issues decisions when a party appeals an ODJFS redetermination.

Policy Statements

Right to Appeal
Any individual or employer who receives a determination or redetermination has the right to appeal if they disagree with the decision. Appeal instructions are included with every decision.

Time Limits for Filing
- **21 days** to appeal an initial determination or redetermination
- **21 days** to request review of a hearing officer decision
- **30 days** to appeal a final UCRC decision to court

If the deadline falls on a weekend or legal holiday, the deadline is extended to the next business day.

Levels of Appeal

- **First-Level Appeal**
  After receiving an initial determination, a party may request an appeal.
  - ODJFS will issue a redetermination or send the appeal to the UCRC.
  - The redetermination may affirm, change, or reverse the earlier decision.

- **Hearing Officer Level**
  If a party disagrees with the redetermination, they may request a hearing before a hearing officer of the UCRC.
  - Hearings are held in person, by phone, or by other approved remote methods.
  - The hearing officer issues a written decision after the hearing.

- **Review Commission Level**
  If a party disagrees with the hearing officer's decision, they may request review by the full UCRC. The UCRC may affirm, modify, or reverse the decision, or send it back for an additional hearing.

- **Court Appeal**
  Parties who disagree with the UCRC's final decision may file an appeal with the Common Pleas Court.
  - The court reviews the case record.
  - The court may affirm the decision or return it to the UCRC for further action.

Participation in the Appeal
All parties have the opportunity to present facts and evidence relevant to the appeal. Hearings are conducted fairly and follow principles of due process. Parties may choose to represent themselves or have an authorized representative.

Continuing to File Weekly Claims
Claimants should continue to file weekly claims while an appeal is pending. If the appeal is successful, benefits can be paid only for weeks that were properly claimed.

Decision Notices
All decisions at each appeal level are provided in writing and include the next steps for appealing, if available.

Review and Updates
This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with current state and federal requirements. Updates will be communicated as needed.

Questions?

Contact the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services at **1-877-644-6562** or submit an inquiry form on the **Contact Us** page at **unemployment.ohio.gov**.