



Ohio Unemployment Program Policy Imposing and Removing Disqualifications

Effective Date: 8/6/2026

Purpose

This policy explains when and why a claimant's benefits could stop or be restarted based on why they are not working or problems that might occur while they file claims.

Reference

[Section 4141.01 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#) (2)

[Section 4141.29 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#) (D) and (G)

[Section 4141.291 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#) (A)

Legal Requirements

Eligibility and disqualification decisions must be fair, consistent, and follow state and federal law. Claimants and employers must receive notice when benefits are denied or suspended.

Definitions

- **Disqualification Period:** When someone cannot receive benefits because of the reason they became unemployed or another issue affecting their eligibility.
- **Requalification:** When a claimant works enough weeks and earns enough pay to become eligible for benefits again after a disqualification.
- **Weekly Disqualification:** When benefits are denied for a specific week because of an eligibility issue.

Policy Statement

To qualify for unemployment benefits, individuals must be unemployed through no fault of their own. Disqualifications can occur because of the reason someone became unemployed or because of an issue that occurred during a week they filed a benefit claim. Some disqualifications last only for the affected weeks. Others continue until the claimant meets certain requirements.

Imposing and Removing Disqualifications

- **Valid Claim Requirement**
Claimants must have a qualifying reason for not working for their initial claim to be approved and considered valid. Otherwise, they will be disqualified until they meet all requalification requirements.

- **Duration Suspension**

A duration suspension will be imposed if a claimant does not have a qualifying reason for why they became unemployed. For example, they may have quit without just cause, been fired because of misconduct, or refused suitable work.

Duration suspensions can be removed if the claimant:

- Obtains work with at least one employer subject to unemployment tax,
- Works at least six separate weeks in that employment, **and**
- Earns wages equal at least six times the minimum statewide average weekly wage.

Claimants may work for multiple employers to requalify. Overlapping weeks count only once.

- **Domestic Suspension**

A domestic suspension will be imposed if a claimant quits work due to marriage or family responsibilities. It will be removed if the claimant:

- Obtains work with at least one employer subject to unemployment tax **and**
- Earns wages equal to half their previous average weekly wage or \$60, whichever is less.

- **Weekly Disqualification**

A claimant will be disqualified from receiving benefits for a specific week if they were not able and available for work that week, if they failed to conduct at least two work-search activities during the week, or if they had other disqualifying issues unrelated to the reason they became unemployed.

- **Disqualification Effective Week**

If a claimant becomes unemployed from a part-time job for a disqualifying reason while they have an active claim for benefits (because of other employment that ended), they cannot receive benefits for the week the part-time job ended.

- **Verifying Requalifying Employment**

If a claimant reports working enough weeks and earning enough pay to become eligible for benefits again after a disqualification, those weeks and wages must be verified with the employer(s). If an employer does not respond, the claimant must provide documentation such as pay stubs. If needed, additional verification may be requested from the employer(s).

- **Requalification for Certain Quits**

In a limited number of circumstances, if a claimant quits a job, they will not be disqualified from receiving benefits – for example, if they quit to accept a recall to previous employment or if they quit to accept a new job. However, they must work enough weeks and earn enough wages with the new employer to qualify.

More specifically, they must:

- Start the new employment immediately, either while still employed or within seven days of the former job ending,
- Work at least three weeks in the new job, and
- Earn at least one and a half times the average weekly wage they earned in the prior job or \$180, whichever is less.

If they do not meet these requirements, a duration suspension will be imposed.

Requalifying Requirements Not Met

If a claimant files a new claim but has not met the requalifying requirements from a prior suspension, the suspension will continue. In addition, if the claimant became unemployed from their most recent employment for a disqualifying reason, a new duration suspension may be imposed.

Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure compliance with updates to state and federal law, administrative rules, and internal process changes. Revisions will be communicated to stakeholders 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.