

Shelley Zumwalt
Executive Director



OKLAHOMA
Employment Security Commission

J. Kevin Stitt
Governor

Representing Employers
David Adams, Commissioner
Karen Hudson, Commissioner

Representing the Public
David Reid, Chair

Representing Employees
Jim Quillen, Commissioner
Trent Smith, Commissioner

Executive Director's Order Waiving the Unemployment Claim Work Search Requirement During the COVID-19 State of Emergency – 5th Revision

Date: September 25, 2020

I, Shelley Zumwalt, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC), under the authority granted to me in OESC Rule 240:10-3-20(d), and in consultation with the Deputy Director, the General Counsel, and the Unemployment Insurance Director of the OESC, hereby find that the conditions existing under the current presidential and gubernatorial declarations of a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, necessitate the need to waive the work search requirement of 40 O.S. §2-417. This action is necessary because certain public officials, public health authorities and business owners have issued directives and policies for businesses to curtail or close business operations to prevent close contact of customers and workers, which in turn will prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and lead to a resumption of normal business operations in the shortest amount of time. With businesses closed or operating with reduced staff, there is little point in requiring unemployment claimants to look for work at this time.

Therefore, I am waiving the work search requirement as well as the one week wait period and work registration of 40 O.S. §2-417 for the unemployment claim week ending after March 23, 2020 and continuing each week thereafter until the fifth amendment of Executive Order 2020-20 of Governor J. Kevin Stitt is no longer effective, which is Sunday, October 25, 2020. Further, I am waiving the work search as well as the one week wait period and work registration for any week of benefits claimed under Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation provided by Section 2107 of the CARES Act, PL 116-136, for the same time period that the work search requirement of 40 O.S. §2-417 is waived.

It is so ordered.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelley Zumwalt", is written over a horizontal line.

Shelley Zumwalt, Executive Director
Oklahoma Employment Security Commission