

2021 Kansas Statutes

44-777. Identity verification for claimants; form; permitted documentation; presentation to and verification by law enforcement officer; presumption of identity; immunity from liability for law enforcement. (a) The secretary of labor shall develop a form for use by claimants to establish their identity before a law enforcement officer of a Kansas law enforcement agency for the purpose of facilitating the receipt of unemployment insurance benefits. The form may be in electronic or paper format and may be transmitted or processed in electronic format if safeguards are made to protect any confidential information of the claimant. Use of the form by a claimant shall not be a requirement to receive unemployment benefits. The form shall be distributed to participating law enforcement agencies upon request and shall be provided to claimants at the time a claim for benefits is submitted. The form shall also be made readily available on the department of labor's website. The form shall be no more than one page in length, include space for the claimant's name, address, phone number if any, email address if any, date of birth and social security number and include instructions for the use of the form for the claimant and the law enforcement agency. The form shall specify permitted identity verification documentation that may be submitted to the law enforcement officer by the claimant to establish the claimant's identity. The permitted forms of identity verification documentation shall be documents to establish identity or documents to establish both identity and employment authorization acceptable for federal form I-9, employment eligibility verification, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 274a.2 as in effect on the effective date of this act. The form shall be developed and made available within seven days of the effective date of this act. Law enforcement agencies shall not be required to participate in the provisions of this section.

(b) Upon receipt of the form, a claimant may present the form to a participating law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the location of the claimant's residence or last known place of employment in Kansas and submit documentation as required by the form for verification by the law enforcement agency. The claimant may present the form to a participating law enforcement agency that does not have jurisdiction over the location of the claimant's residence or last known place of employment if no law enforcement agency with such jurisdiction has agreed to participate and the secretary has approved such submission. If a law enforcement officer of the law enforcement agency examines and finds the documentation submitted by the claimant valid and sufficient to establish the claimant's identity, the law enforcement officer shall complete or verify the form and the law enforcement agency shall submit the form to the department of labor as provided by the instructions.

(c) The secretary shall presume a claimant's identity has been confirmed for purposes of the employment security law upon submission of a properly completed form to the secretary by the law enforcement agency on behalf of the claimant. The presumption may be overcome by direct and credible information to the contrary.

(d) The law enforcement officer, law enforcement agency, the state or any political subdivision of the state that employs a law enforcement officer providing identity verification as provided by this section for the department of labor, shall have immunity from any civil or criminal liability for such verification action if the law enforcement officer acts in good faith and exercises due care. Participation and verification of a claimant's identity as provided by this section by a law enforcement agency or law enforcement officer shall constitute a discretionary function or duty for purposes of the Kansas tort claims act.

(e) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to the employment security law.

History: L. 2021, ch. 92, § 10; May 13.