

[Home](#) / 12 Charged with Theft by Deception for Falsely Claiming Unemployment Benefits While Working

12 Charged with Theft by Deception for Falsely Claiming Unemployment Benefits While Working

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2019

TRENTON – Twelve current or former employees of an international manufacturing company were charged with theft by deception after a joint investigation found they had claimed more than \$375,000 in New Jersey unemployment insurance benefits while working.

“This egregious act of theft has targeted the critical funds set aside to help the citizens of our state when they are at their most vulnerable,” said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo. “We hope this action will serve as a reminder to everyone that we take these cases seriously, and we will continue to work with law enforcement to uncover and prosecute every instance of fraud to the fullest extent under the law.”

Investigators from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL), as well as the New Jersey Division on Criminal Justice, and the Office of the Inspector General led to the discovery that Lawrence Barnes, 59, of Trenton; Lisa Conway, 52 of Trenton; Anthony Davis, 52, of Trenton; Elijah Dolo, 39, of Trenton; Kevin Forrest, 46, of Ewing; Catalina Henry, 43, of Trenton; Durand Morrow, 42, of Trenton; Madeline Morrow, 45, of Trenton; Fitzgerald Roberts, 31, of Hamilton; Milton Shaffa, 39, of Trenton; Madeline Torres, 44, of Burlington; and Torwon Wonokay, 41, of Morrisville, PA, were continuing to certify unemployment benefits while gainfully employed, following a temporary layoff.

To report suspected fraud, visit nj.gov/labor.

The charges are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

[← Go back to all press releases](#)



NJ Labor Department
@NJLaborDept

NJ adds jobs in July; 7th consecutive months of gains. [nj.gov/labor/lwdhome/...](http://nj.gov/labor/lwdhome/)

Aug 19, 2021



NJ Labor Department
@NJLaborDept

As of the latest reporting, more than \$33 billion in unemployment benefits have been sent to Garden State workers. With federal benefits set to expire on September 4, we encourage everyone to check your email and visit MyUnemployment.nj.gov for updates and available resources.



Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Home

File or Access Your Claim

Temporary Disability Insurance

Family Leave Insurance

Maternity Leave

Unemployment Insurance

Social Security Disability

Worker Protections

Your Rights at Work

Workers' Compensation

Safety and Health

Wage & Hour Compliance

Paid Sick Leave

Career Support

Career Services

Employer Services

Employer Accounts

Layoffs and Closings

Wage & Hour Compliance

Business Support

Apprenticeship

Industry Partnerships

Employer Handbook

Employer Poster Packet

Equal Pay Act Reporting

Research & Information

Labor Market Information

Grant Opportunities

Legal Notices

Press Releases

About Us

Statewide

Governor Phil Murphy

Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver

NJ Home

Services A to Z

Departments/Agencies

FAQs

Contact Us

Privacy Notice

Legal Statement & Disclaimers

Accessibility Statement



Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2021

Department of Labor

1 John Fitch Plz,

Trenton, NJ 08611