



THE LEGAL ADVISOR

The official newsletter of Scranton Road Legal Clinic



**He changes times and seasons;
he deposes kings & raises up others.
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to the discerning.
Daniel 2:21 NIV**

Unemployment Benefits: Do You Qualify?

Written by Lillie Burkons, Esq., Staff Attorney

Unemployment has decreased, but there are still about 6 million people who are unemployed in the U.S. Unemployment insurance benefits can help.

Unemployment is a state and federal cash benefit program. You apply in your state. Each state follows federal law but may implement additional rules.

To be eligible for unemployment benefits in Ohio, you must be fully or partially unemployed.

Unemployment must have been "through no fault of your own," which means a reason out of your control (such as layoffs or lack of work). Unemployment does not apply if you were fired for committing misconduct or gross negligence, but you might still qualify if you were fired for poor job performance. If you quit your job, you could qualify for unemployment if you had "just cause" to quit (such as unsafe working conditions) and a reasonable person in a similar situation would quit. Some seasonal workers and "independent contractors" also may qualify. It doesn't hurt to apply, even if you're not sure you qualify.

In addition, you must have worked at least 20 weeks during the first four out of five calendar quarters, earned at least \$280 a week, are actively seeking work and are able and available to work. . If you have a prior, expired claim, you must have worked in covered employment since the beginning of the prior claim year.

Free Books for Ohio's Children

To receive one free book every month until their fifth birthday, children younger than five years old can enroll in the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library. Go to OhioImaginationLibrary.org and click on "ENROLL NOW."

The program is free for all Ohio families, through a partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The partnership aims to encourage statewide childhood literacy.

According to the website, children who read well are less likely to drop out of high school and therefore have increased access to employment. Being read to also better prepares kids for Kindergarten!

Cleveland Nonprofit Offers Financial Independence

For 118 years, the Hebrew Free Loans Association of Northeast Ohio has been giving out interest-free loans.

They have implemented three new loan types: 1) Debt Exchange Loan (trading in high-interest debt for an interest-free loan); 2) Credit Building Loan (paying back a small loan over time to build credit history); and 3) Used Auto Loan (helping people purchase used cars and avoid high interest rates).

Contact Scranton Road Legal Clinic for more information or go to www.interestfree.org.



Fact: 46% of all workers who receive public assistance are working full time!

Fact: 52% of workers earning between \$7.42 and \$9.91 per hour rely on public assistance!

UNUSUAL LAWS

Strange Laws Around the US (California)

- In L.A. it's illegal to hunt moths under street lamps
- In San Francisco, all elephants walking down Market Street must be leashed
- In Berkeley, it's illegal to whistle for your lost canary until after 7 a.m.



**IN-PERSON FAMILY LAW ADVICE CLINIC/WORKSHOP CONTINUES IN 2022!
CONTACT US AT 216.861.5323 TO SIGN UP NOW! SPACE IS LIMITED.
Also, get ready for the return of Wills and Waffles!**

Formed in 2012, Scranton Road Legal Clinic educates and empowers our neighbors to make educated and prudent legal decisions, while providing the holistic support for the spiritual, emotional and relational problems that often accompany legal concerns. We offer brief advice via our brief advice telephone line at 216.861.5323 or via our online intake form at www.scrantonroadministries.org/legal. Contact us today to discuss your legal need.