

Minimum Wage



Labor Laws of the State of Maine provide protection for people who work in Maine. The Maine Department of Labor administers the laws, which all employers must follow. Department representatives inspect workplaces to ensure compliance. Citations and penalties may be issued to employers who do not comply.



Maine Law (Title 26 M.R.S.A. § 42-B) requires every employer to place this poster in the workplace where workers can easily see it.

This poster is available online at no charge and may be copied: <https://www.maine.gov/labor/posters/>

Minimum Wage is \$12.75 per hour effective January 1, 2022

Minimum Wage

Under Maine labor laws, any business operating in the state with one employee is automatically covered by state law. This includes all public and private employers regardless of profit or size. Effective January 1, 2022, the minimum wage in Maine is \$12.75 per hour.

Municipal Minimum Wage Ordinances

Employers with employees who work in Bangor and/or Portland or any other municipality that passes a local minimum wage ordinance, may be subject to additional regulations and should check with municipal officials.

Service Employee

A service employee is someone who regularly receives more than \$100 a month in tips. As of January 1, 2022, employers must pay a direct wage of at least \$6.38 per hour to service employees. If the employee's direct wage combined with earned tips do not average, on a weekly basis, the state required minimum wage, the employer must pay the difference.

Overtime

Unless specifically exempted, employees must receive overtime pay for hours worked in excess of 40 in a workweek at a rate not less than time and one-half their regular rates of pay. Employers have the right to allow or deny overtime, but if overtime is worked, it must be paid in accordance with state requirements. Compensatory or "comp" time cannot be used by private-sector employers, although private-sector employers can allow employees to flex their time within the workweek (but not the pay period if the pay period is longer than a seven day cycle in the workweek).

Exemptions from Overtime

Maine statutes incorporate by reference the salary requirements under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The new minimum salary requirement will be \$735.59 per week as of January 1, 2022. Salary is only one factor in determining whether a worker is exempt from overtime under federal or state law. The duties of each worker must be considered as part of this analysis. Failure to adhere to both requirements—meeting the duties test and the weekly salary threshold—will result in violations of both federal or state law or of one jurisdiction or the other depending on the discrepancies in the laws.

Statements to Employees

Every employer shall give to each employee with the payment of wages a statement clearly showing the date of the pay period, hours worked, total earnings and itemized deductions.

Recordkeeping

Employers shall keep, for three years, accurate records of hours worked and wages paid to all employees.

The Department of Labor enforces state wage and hour laws. Employers with questions about the law may call 207-623-7900 or may visit the department's webpage.

Minimum Wage Guidance

www.maine.gov/labor/labor_laws/minimum_wage_faq.html
legislature.maine.gov/statutes/26/title26sec664.html

Overtime Guidance

www.maine.gov/labor/labor_laws/overtime.html
legislature.maine.gov/statutes/26/title26sec664.html

For more information, contact:

Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards
45 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0045

Telephone: 207-623-7900

TTY users call Maine Relay 711.

Web site: www.maine.gov/labor/bls

Email: bls.mdol@maine.gov

***Note:** Maine employers may also be covered under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Office at 603-666-7716.

Whistleblower's Protection Act



Protection of Employees Who Report or Refuse to Commit Illegal Acts



This poster describes some important parts of the law. A copy of the actual law or formal interpretations may be obtained from the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards by calling 207-623-7900. (The laws are also on the Bureau's web site.)

Maine Law (Title 26
M.R.S.A. § 839) requires
every employer to
place this poster in
the workplace where
workers can easily see it.

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It is illegal for your boss to fire you, threaten you, retaliate against you or treat you differently because:

1. You reported a violation of the law;
2. You are a healthcare worker and you reported a medical error;
3. You reported something that risks someone's health or safety;
4. You have refused to do something that will endanger your life or someone else's life and you have asked your employer to correct it; or
5. You have been involved in an investigation or hearing held by the government.

You are protected by this law ONLY if:

1. You tell your boss about the problem and allow a reasonable time for it to be corrected; or
2. You have good reason to believe that your boss will not correct the problem.

To report a violation, unsafe condition or practice or an illegal act in your workplace, contact:

(This information should be filled in by the employer)

(Name)	(Title)	(Location or Phone)
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For more information or to file a complaint under this law, contact:

The Maine Human Rights Commission
51 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Tel: 207-624-6290
TTY users call Maine Relay 711
www.Maine.gov/mhrc

The following agencies may provide useful information on workplace safety and labor laws:

U.S. Department of Labor
Wage and Hour Division
P.O. Box 554
Portland, Maine 04112
Tel: 207-780-3344
www.dol.gov

U.S. Department of Labor/OSHA
40 Western Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04330
Tel: 207-626-9160
www.osha.gov

Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards
45 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0045
Tel: 207-623-7900
TTY users call Maine Relay 711.
Web site: www.maine.gov/labor/bls
Email: bls.mdol@maine.gov

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to people with disabilities upon request.



WORKERS' COMPENSATION

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD REGIONAL OFFICES

AUGUSTA
442 Civic Center Drive, Suite 225
156 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0156
207-287-2308
1-800-400-6854

LEWISTON
36 Mollison Way
Lewiston, ME 04240-5811
207-753-7700
1-800-400-6857

BANGOR
106 Hogan Road, Suite 1
Bangor, ME 04401
207-941-4550
1-800-400-6856

PORTLAND
1037 Forest Avenue, Suite 11
Portland, ME 04103
207-822-0840
1-800-400-6858

CARIBOU
43 Hatch Drive, Suite 110
Caribou, ME 04736-2347
207-498-6428
1-800-400-6855

Visit our website at:
www.maine.gov/wcb
Statewide TTY: 711

Notice to Employees:

State law requires your employer to provide workers' compensation insurance for its employees. Workers' compensation insurance provides benefits to employees who are injured at work.

If you are injured at work, NOTIFY YOUR EMPLOYER AT ONCE. You may lose your right to receive benefits unless your employer is notified within 60 days of your injury. Your claim is also subject to a two year statute of limitations. Worker advocates are available at the Workers' Compensation Board to help injured workers.

It is against the law for employers to misclassify employees as independent contractors for the purposes of avoiding workers' compensation insurance, unemployment coverage, or other employer paid taxes and withholdings. For more information on laws pertaining to the hiring of independent contractors, visit the Worker Misclassification Task Force website at www.maine.gov/labor/misclass.

If you have any questions about your rights, please contact one of the regional offices.

A l'intention des Employes:

D'après les lois de l'Etat du Maine, votre employeur est tenu de souscrire à une assurance indemnisant ses employés victimes d'un accident du travail.

Si vous êtes victime d'un accident du travail, PREVEZ VOTRE EMPLOYEUR IMMEDIATEMENT. Passé un délai de 60 jours, vous risquez de perdre vos droits à l'indemnisation. Au-delà de deux ans, votre déclaration n'est plus recevable. Pour aider les victimes d'un accident du travail, le Workers' Compensation Board met des conseillers juridiques à leur disposition.

La loi interdit aux employeurs de classer fallacieusement leurs salariés comme étant des contractants privés aux fins d'échapper à l'assurance compensatrice-employé, aux

indemnités de chômage, ou aux autres charges et retenues dues par employeur. Pour plus de détails sur la législation relative à l'utilisation des services privés, visitez le site internet de Worker Misclassification Task Force (Unité anti-fraude en matière de classification des salariés) : www.maine.gov/labor/misclass.

Si vous n'êtes pas sûr de vos droits, veuillez contacter l'un des bureaux régionaux.

Aviso a los Trabajadores:

La ley del estado de Maine requiere que su empresario proporcione el seguro de compensaciones para el trabajador a todos los trabajadores. El seguro de compensaciones para el trabajador proporciona beneficios a los trabajadores accidentados en el trabajo.

En caso de sufrir accidente o daño laboral, NOTIFIQUELO INMEDIATAMENTE A SU EMPRESARIO. Podría perder el derecho a recibir compensación a menos que su empresario sea notificado de este accidente o daño en el plazo de 60 días. Así mismo esta reclamación debe hacer referencia a un accidente o daño que no haya ocurrido hace más de dos años. Los defensores del trabajador están disponibles para proporcionar ayuda a los trabajadores accidentados en el Consejo de Administración de Compensaciones para el Trabajador (Workers' Compensation Board).

El hecho de no clasificar a los empleados como contratistas independientes, con el propósito de evitar el seguro por compensación al trabajador, cobertura para desempleados, u otros impuestos pagados y retenidos por el empleador; está en contra de la ley del empleador. Para mayor información acerca de las leyes pertenecientes a la contratación de contratistas independientes, visite el Worker Misclassification Task Force en la página web de www.maine.gov/labor/misclass.

En caso de tener cualquier pregunta sobre sus derechos, favor de dirigirse a una de las oficinas regionales de compensaciones para el trabajador.

ENGLISH	Interpreters Available When calling for assistance, please say the name of your language in English and an interpreter will be called for you. Please stay on the line.	POLISH	Tłumacze dostępni na życzenie. Aby uzyskać pomoc tłumacze, proszę powiedzieć po angielsku "Polish" i czekać na linii.	VIETNAMESE	“Cố Thông Dịch Viên” “Khi gọi điện thoại để được giúp đỡ, xin quý vị hãy nói “VIETNAMESE” để chúng tôi cho thông dịch viên giúp quý vị. Xin quý vị chờ trên đường dây.
SPANISH	Tenemos intérpretes a su disposición Si necesita que le atiendan en español por favor diga “Spanish” y le conectaremos con un intérprete. Por favor manténgase en la línea.	RUSSIAN	“К вашим услугам имеются переводчики” “Когда Вы обращаетесь за помощью по телефону, пожалуйста скажите, что Вы говорите по-русски (произнесите “РАШН”), и мы обеспечим Вас переводчиком. После этого, пожалуйста, оставайтесь на линии.”	ARABIC	مترجمون شفيون متيسرون لخدمتكم عند إتصالكم للمساعدة أو لطلب خدمة معينة نرجو منكم أن تذكروا (أ-ز-ب-ك) ونحن سنقدم لكم مترجماً شفيياً . ابقوا على الخط من فضلكم.
PORTUGUESE	Temos intérpretes à sua disposição Se precisar de atendimento em Português, por favor diga “Portuguese” e um intérprete será prontamente chamado. Por favor, aguarde na linha.	CHINESE	提供口譯服務 打電話請求幫助時，請用英語說“拼音呢斯”(CHINESE)——我們將為您提供口譯人員。請不要挂斷電話。	PERSIAN	افراد مترجم در دسترس مي باشند. را كه بدان صحبت مي كنيد به انگليسي ذكر كنيد تا راجع به امري به ما تلفن مي كنيد، لطفاً نام زباني قطع نكنيد. هنگاميكه براي درخواست كمك يا شما تماس گرفته شود. لطفاً روي خط منتظر بمانيد. با يك مترجم براي
ITALIAN	Abbiamo interpreti disponibili Se avete bisogno di assistenza in Italiano, Vi preghiamo di dire “Italian” e un interprete sarà messo a Vostra disposizione. Vi preghiamo di rimanere in linea.	JAPANESE	通訳サービスをご利用いただけます 通訳を必要とされる場合は「ジャパニーズ」とおっしゃり、通訳がでるまでそのままでお待ちください。	SOMALI	Turjunaanno waa la helayaa Marka aad caawinaad inoogu soo yeeranaysid, fadhlan luqaddaada af Ingiriisi inoogu sheeg turjubaan ayaa lguugu yeeri doonaaye. Taleefoonkana ha dhigin.
FRENCH	Des interprètes sont à votre disposition Lorsque vous appelez pour demander de l'aide, prononcez le mot “French” et nous mettrons un interprète à votre disposition. Prière de rester en ligne.	KOREAN	한국어 통역을 이용하실 수 있습니다. 도움이 필요하여 전화를 거실 때 영어로 코리언 (KOREAN)이라고 말씀하시면 통역자를 연결해 드릴 것입니다. 전화를 끊지 마시고 기다리십시오.		

To the employer: This notice must be posted in a conspicuous place upon your premises accessible to employees. 39-A MRSA §406. The State of Maine does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. This poster is available in alternative format. For further assistance, contact the Maine Workers' Compensation Board, ADA Coordinator, telephone: (888) 801-9087 or TTY: 711.

Occupational Safety and Health Regulations for Public Sector Workplaces



Maine has an Occupational Safety and Health Law that protects state, county and municipal government employees from workplace safety and health hazards.

M.R.S.A. Title 26: Labor and Industry



Public sector employers must place this poster in the workplace where workers can easily see it.

This poster is available online at no charge and may be copied: <https://www.maine.gov/labor/posters/>

How are you protected?

- ✓ By law, an employer must provide a safe and healthful workplace for employees.
- ✓ Periodically, safety and health inspectors from the Maine Department of Labor will show up at your workplace to make sure your employer is following Safety and Health Regulations.
- ✓ You have a right to report work-related injuries and illnesses.
- ✓ If you think your workplace is unsafe, you or your representative can contact the Maine Department of Labor and request an inspection. You can request that your name be kept confidential.
- ✓ Employers, employees and employee representatives may go with the inspector on the inspection of your job site.
- ✓ Your employer may be cited and penalized if unsafe or unhealthful conditions are found during an inspection. Citations must be posted at or near the place of the alleged violation.
- ✓ Your employer must correct unsafe and unhealthful conditions found during an inspection.
- ✓ Employers that repeat safety and health violations or that violate the law on purpose may face fines, civil charges, or criminal charges.
- ✓ You cannot be fired or discriminated against for filing a safety and health complaint or reporting a work-related injury or illness. You can file a complaint with the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards within 30 days of such an alleged violation.

Under a plan approved August 5, 2015, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the State of Maine is providing job safety and health protection for workers in the public sector throughout the State.

OSHA will monitor the operation of this plan to assure that continued approval is merited. Any person may make a complaint regarding the State administration of this plan directly to the Regional Office of OSHA, JFK Federal Building, Room E-340, Boston, Massachusetts 02203.

Telephone: 617-565-9860 | Fax: 617-565-9827.

For after-hours fatality/catastrophe reporting:
207-592-4501 or email accident.bls@maine.gov.

Who can you contact to ask for an inspection or for safety and health information?

Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards
45 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0045
207-623-7900

TTY users call Maine Relay 711.

Email: mdol@maine.gov

Web site: www.maine.gov/labor/bls

Child Labor Laws



Bureau of Labor Standards

Child Labor Laws of the State of Maine provide protection for people under the age of 18 in both agricultural and nonagricultural jobs. The Maine Department of Labor administers the laws, which all employers must follow. Department representatives inspect workplaces to ensure compliance. Citations and penalties may be issued to employers who do not comply.

This poster describes some important parts of the laws. A copy of the actual laws and formal interpretations may be obtained from the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards, by calling (207) 623-7900. (The laws are also on the Bureau website.)



Maine Law (Title 26, M.R.S.A. § 42-B) requires every employer to place this poster in the workplace where workers can easily see it.

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14 and 15 year olds may work in most businesses, except in occupations declared hazardous and jeopardize their health, well-being or educational opportunities. **16 and 17 year olds** may work in most businesses, however not in hazardous jobs. These provisions also provide limited exemptions. Contact the Bureau of Labor Standards for details.

Work Permits

- **All** minors under 16 years of age need work permits in order to work.
- Superintendent of schools certify academic standing.
- Minor allowed only one permit during the school year but two during summer vacation.
- Minor cannot work until permit is approved by Bureau of Labor Standards.
- Employer keeps Bureau-approved permit on file.

Recordkeeping

All employers must keep accurate payroll records for workers under 18. Records must show what time the minor began work, total hours worked, and what time the minor finished work each day.

Note: Maine employers may also be covered under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Office at 603-666-7716 or <http://youth.dol.gov/>.

For more information, contact:

Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards
45 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0045

Tel: 207-623-7900 or 207-623-7930

TTY users call Maine Relay 711
Website: www.maine.gov/labor/bls
Email: bls.mdol@maine.gov

Work Hours 14 and 15 year olds

- No more than six days in a row.
- Cannot work before 7 a.m.
- Not after 7 p.m. during school year.
- Cannot work after 9 p.m. during summer vacation.

When School Is Not in Session

- No more than 8 hours in any one day (weekend, holiday, vacation or workshop).
- Not more than 40 hours in a week (school must be out entire week).

When School Is in Session

- No more than 3 hours on a school day, including Friday.
- Not more than 18 hours in a week that school is in session one or more days.

Work Hours 16 and 17 year olds (enrolled in school)

- No more than 6 days in a row.
- Cannot work before 7 a.m. on a school day.
- Cannot work before 5 a.m. on a non-school day.
- Cannot work after 10:15 p.m. the night before a school day.
- Can work up to midnight when there is no school the next day.

When School Is Not in Session

- No more than 10 hours in any one day (weekend, holiday, vacation, or workshop).
- No more than 50 hours in a week.

When School Is in Session

- No more than 6 hours on a school day.
- No more than 10 hours on any holiday, vacation, or workshop day.
- On last day of school week, may work up to 8 hours.
- No more than 24 hours in a week, except may work 50 hours any week that approved school calendar is less than three days or during the first and last week of school calendar.

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to people with disabilities upon request.

Regulation of Employment

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Standards

Labor Laws of the State of Maine provide protection for people who work in Maine. The Maine Department of Labor administers the laws, which all employers must follow. Department representatives inspect workplaces to ensure compliance. Citations and penalties may be issued to employers who do not comply.

This poster describes some important parts of the laws. A copy of the actual laws or formal interpretations may be obtained from the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards, by calling 207-623-7900. (The laws are also on the Bureau's web site.)



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Time of Payment

Employees must be paid in full at least every 16 days. Employees must be notified of any decrease in wages or salary at least one day prior to the change.

Payment of Wages

Employees who leave a job must be paid in full on the next payday or within two weeks, whichever is earlier. This may also include the payment of accrued vacation pay and/or Earned Paid Leave if established in company policy or in practice.

Unfair Agreement

Employers cannot require that an employee pay for losses such as broken merchandise, bad checks, or bills not paid by customers, nor for special uniforms and certain tools of the trade.

Rest Breaks

Most employees must be offered a 30-minute paid or unpaid rest break after 6 hours of work.

Nursing mothers must be provided with unpaid break time or be permitted to use their paid break or meal time to express milk. The employer must make reasonable efforts to provide a clean room or location, other than a bathroom, where the milk can be expressed.

Family Medical Leave

An employee who has worked for the last 12 months at a workplace with 15 or more employees can have leave for up to 10 paid or unpaid weeks in 2 years for:

- ◆ Birth or adoption of a child or domestic partner's child;
- ◆ Serious illness of the employee or immediate family member, including domestic partner;
- ◆ Organ donation;
- ◆ Death or serious health condition of the employee's spouse, domestic partner, parent or child if it occurs while the spouse, domestic partner, parent or child is on active duty;
- ◆ Serious illness or death of a sibling who shares joint living and financial arrangements with the worker.

(Federal family medical leave is different, call 866-487-9243 for more information.)

Leave for Victims of Violence, Assault, Sexual Assault or Stalking

Must be allowed upon request if an employee (or a child, parent or spouse of an employee) is a victim of violence, assault, sexual assault or stalking or any act that would support an order for protection under Title 19-A M.R.S.A., c. 101 and the employee needs the time to:

- ◆ Prepare for and attend court proceedings; or
- ◆ Receive medical treatment; or
- ◆ Obtain necessary services to remedy crisis.

Leave to Care for Family

If the employer's policy provides for paid time off, the employee must be allowed to use up to 40 hours in a 12-month period to care for an immediate family member who is ill.

Earned Paid Leave (Effective 01.01.2021)

An employer that employs more than 10 employees in the usual and regular course of business for more than 120 days in any calendar year shall permit each employee to earn paid leave based on the employee's base pay. An employee is entitled to earn one hour of paid leave from a single employer for every 40 hours worked, up to 40 hours in one year of employment. Accrual of leave begins at the start of employment, but the employer is not required to permit use of the leave before the employee has been employed by that employer for 120 days during a one-year period.

Earned Income Tax Credit

Employees may be eligible for federal and state earned income tax credits. Employees may apply for the tax credits on the employee's income tax return.

Note: *Maine employers may also be covered under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Office at 866-487-9243.*

For more information, contact:

Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards
45 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0045
located at: 45 Commerce Drive

Telephone: 207-623-7900 | TTY users call Maine Relay 711.

Web site: www.maine.gov/labor/bls

Email: bls.mdol@maine.gov

At-Will Employment - Under Maine law, an at-will employee may be terminated for any reason not specifically prohibited by law. In most instances, you are an at-will employee unless you are covered by a collective bargaining agreement or other contract that limits termination. If you have questions about at-will employment, contact your human resources department or the Bureau of Labor Standards.

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Maine Equal Pay Law

(Title 26, § 628, Chapter 7)



Maine Law requires that employees be paid the same wages as employees of the opposite sex for work that is of a comparable nature in skill, effort and responsibility.



This poster is provided at no cost by the Maine Department of Labor and may be copied.

Are you being paid less than an employee of the opposite sex for performing the same or similar job?

If so, please ask yourself the following questions.

1. Has the other employee worked for the business or been in that job longer than I have?
2. Does the other employee have more training, education or experience related to the job than I do?
3. Is there a merit system in place that rewards employees with promotion, pay increases or other advantages on the basis of their abilities or qualifications?
4. Does the other employee have more responsibilities in comparison to my own responsibilities?

If you cannot answer at least one of the above questions with a "yes," you may want to file an Equal Pay Complaint. The Maine Department of Labor has a printable complaint form which you may access at www.maine.gov/labor/labor_laws/wagehour.html or you may call 207-623-7900 and request that an Equal Pay Complaint form be mailed to you.

For more information, contact:

Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards
45 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0045
Telephone: 207-623-7900 or 207-623-7930
TTY users call Maine Relay 711
www.maine.gov/labor/bls

*The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs.
Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.*

Maine Employment Security Law



This poster is designed to notify individuals of their rights regarding the filing of claims for unemployment benefits. It does not have the force or effect of law. For more information, call 1-800-593-7660 toll free.



Rules Governing The Administration of the Employment Security Law states every employer shall post and maintain such notices to its workers.

This poster is available online at no charge and may be copied: <https://www.maine.gov/labor/posters/>

Full- and Part-Time Workers

How to file a claim for unemployment benefits

All new and reactivated claims for unemployment benefits are filed either online, telephone or by mail. **Do not delay in filing your claim once you are out of work. Claims cannot be backdated.**

When filing, you will need to know your Social Security Number. Also, you should have the names and addresses of all employers for whom you worked, and your dates of employment in the last 18 months.

To file online: www.maine.gov/reemploy

This is the fastest, easiest way to file.

To file by phone: 1-800-593-7660

TTY Users Call Maine Relay 711.

All individuals filing for Unemployment Insurance benefits are required by law to be registered with the Maine JobLink. Visit www.mainejobcenter.gov to access Maine JobLink.

We provide **language interpreter services** in approximately 140 commonly spoken languages. Arrangements will be made to have an interpreter assist you when you call the Unemployment Claims Center.

To claim by mail: In some cases, your employer will give you a claim form. Mail your initial claim form to the Unemployment Claims Center listed below.

**Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Unemployment Compensation**

97 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0097

Basic eligibility requirements

Earnings during the base period: The "base period" is a one-year period that includes four calendar quarters. To establish a claim, an individual must have earned two times the annual average weekly wage in Maine in each of two different calendar quarters, and a total of six times the annual, average, weekly wage in Maine in the whole base period. In most cases, the Department of Labor has your wage information on file. If it is not on file, the Department will take steps to obtain it.

Separation: If you were laid off from your last job due to a lack of work, no additional investigation is required. If you separated from your last job for reasons other than lack of work, you will be scheduled for a fact-finding interview. A determination will then be made regarding your eligibility for benefits.

Weekly requirements: Weekly eligibility requirements include being **able to work** and being **available** for work, making an **active search for work** (unless your work search has been "waived"), not refusing offers of suitable work or referral to suitable job opportunities from the CareerCenters.

Aliens: If you are not a U.S. Citizen, your Social Security Number and/or your Alien Permit number will be checked with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Unemployment benefits are taxable: Unemployment benefits are taxable and have to be reported when you file your income tax forms.

Child support: If you owe child support that you pay to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), up to fifty percent (50%) of your unemployment check may be withheld and sent to DHHS.

Benefits for partial unemployment: An employer shall issue a properly completed partial unemployment claim form to each employee who is customarily employed full-time and who is given less than full-time hours during a week due to lack of work, and who is not separated from that employer.

Maine Labor Laws on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking

Maine laws protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in employment.

This poster describes some important parts of the laws. A copy of the actual laws or formal interpretations may be obtained from the Maine Department of Labor by calling (207) 623-7900.

This poster may be copied.



How You Are Protected

Leave for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking:

- ✓ You may take reasonable and necessary leave from employment if you, your child, spouse, or parent is a victim of domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. Title 26, § 850.
- ✓ Notice of violation(s) must be reported within six months of the occurrence. If you are denied leave, a fine of up to \$1,000 for each violation may be assessed against the employer. Additionally, the employer is liable for liquidated damages in an amount equal to three times the amount of total assessed fines. If you are terminated, you may elect either the liquidated damages or reemployment with the employer with back wages.

Unemployment Benefit Eligibility:

- ✓ If you voluntarily leave work, you may not be disqualified from receiving benefits if your leaving was necessary to protect yourself from domestic abuse, and you made all reasonable efforts to keep your job. Title 26, §1193, §§1(A)4
- ✓ You may not be disqualified from receiving benefits because of misconduct if your actions were based solely on the need to protect yourself or an immediate family member from domestic violence, and you made all reasonable efforts to keep your job. Title 26, §1043, §§23(B)3

Who You Can Contact for Help

Domestic Violence Hotlines by County:

Androscoggin	1-800-559-2927
Aroostook	1-800-439-2323
Cumberland	1-800-537-6066
Franklin	1-800-559-2927
Hancock	1-800-315-5579
Kennebec	1-877-890-7788
Knox	1-800-522-3304
Lincoln	1-800-522-3304
Oxford	1-800-559-2927
Penobscot	1-800-863-9909
Piscataquis	1-888-564-8165
Sagadahoc	1-800-522-3304
Somerset	1-877-890-7788
Waldo	1-800-522-3304
Washington	1-800-315-5579
York	1-800-239-7298

Other Resources:

National Domestic Violence Hotline:	1-800-799-7233
TTY:	1-800-787-3224 • www.thehotline.org
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence	1-866-834-4357 www.MCEDV.org
Statewide Sexual Assault Crisis Line	1-800-871-7741 TTY 1-888-458-5599
Maine Department of Labor	207-623-7900 TTY users call Maine Relay 711
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence	207-430-8334
Aroostook Band of Micmac	207-764-1972 or 1-800-355-1435
Maliseet Advocacy Center	207-532-6401
Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations	1-877-853-2613
Penobscot Nation Advocacy Center	207-631-4886
United Somali Women of Maine	207-753-0061