

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Applying for California State Disability Insurance Now Easier With Online Services

Sacramento – The Employment Development Department (EDD) is increasing customer convenience by providing the ability to apply for State Disability Insurance (SDI) online. Now claimants, employers, physician/practitioners and other voluntary plans can submit Disability Insurance (DI) and Paid Family Leave (PFL) claims electronically.

“SDI Online ushers in a new era of enhanced customer service at the EDD,” said EDD Director Pam Harris. “We are proud to be able to offer this new convenience to our customers and, in conjunction with the previous introduction of our EDD debit cards for paying both SDI and Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, take another step toward a paperless business environment.”

There are many advantages to SDI Online - it’s secure, efficient, and will speed up the processing of DI and PFL benefits. Additional advantages to SDI Online for both the EDD and its customers include:

- Immediate access to services.
- Reduction in claim processing time.
- Access to claim status and payment history online.
- Secure transmission of personal information.
- Improved detection and management of fraud and abuse.
- Electronic confirmation of forms receipt.
- Reduction in paperwork and overhead.

The SDI program is a temporary wage-replacement insurance plan for California workers, funded through State-mandated employee payroll deductions and administered by the EDD. Regular DI covers workers who suffer a wage loss due to a non-occupational illness or injury, or due to pregnancy or childbirth. The PFL program provides benefits when a worker needs to take time off to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, registered domestic partner, or to bond with a new child.

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Prior to SDI Online, filing SDI benefits and processing applications by EDD representatives was a manual and paper-driven process. Claimants, physicians/practitioners, and employers would spend time filling out paper forms and then sometimes have to resubmit the same data because the original form was not correctly completed or lost in the mail.

To use SDI Online customers will need internet access, an e-mail account, their Social Security number and a valid California Driver's License or Identification number. Once the account is established, customers can log in to SDI Online, **24 hours a day, seven days a week for access to most services.** the SDI Online system will give claimants the choice of receiving correspondence from EDD either electronically or by standard mail.

The option to file a paper claim will remain available by using the new Optical Character Recognition (OCR) forms designed to work with SDI Online. The OCR form will look very similar to the current paper application. However, the new OCR forms will make the process more efficient because they're scanned at our Document and Information Management Center and the claimant's information is captured and uploaded into the EDD's electronic system for processing.

For more information on the new online system and the SDI programs, please visit the EDD's website at www.edd.ca.gov/disability.

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