

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TWC Prosecutes Lubbock County Claimants for Unemployment Insurance Fraud**

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) warns that criminal prosecutions for Unemployment Insurance (UI) fraud are pursued aggressively. TWC refers cases in which UI benefits are obtained through fraud or deception to respective local district attorney offices. TWC has provided evidence resulting in the recent prosecutions of two Lubbock County claimants. Restitution orders totaling \$8,418 will be returned to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, which TWC administers for the state of Texas.

- Oscar Ramirez, 53, was convicted of state jail felony theft by the 137<sup>th</sup> District Court and sentenced to five years regular probation. Ramirez was ordered to make \$3,832 restitution, pay \$268 in court costs and perform 150 hours of community service.
- David Rocha, 38, received three years deferred adjudication probation from the 137<sup>th</sup> District Court on the charge of state jail felony theft. Rocha was ordered to make \$4,586 restitution and perform 400 hours of community service.

TWC's Regulatory Integrity Division is charged with detecting and preventing fraud, waste and abuse. The division enforces all regulatory statutes within the jurisdiction of the agency, including Tax, Workforce, Trade Act, Skills Development, Self-Sufficiency, Child Care and all other programs that TWC administers. Prevention, detection and elimination of fraud and abuse in the UI program are top priorities, ensuring that funds are available exclusively to those who meet the eligibility requirements.

TWC administers UI benefits to workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own and are actively seeking work. TWC regularly cross matches UI claims with employer wage reports and other databases to detect possible UI fraud. If TWC discovers that claimants have received UI benefits through fraudulent applications, the agency seeks immediate reimbursement of overpayments. Examples of UI fraud include giving false information and failure to report self-employment or other earnings while receiving UI benefits.

To report suspected UI fraud, call the TWC Fraud and Program Abuse Hotline at (800) 252-3642. For monthly updates on fraud convictions, see TWC's Web site at <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/ui/bnfts/prosecutiondispo.html>

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*The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org).*