

GILL RAGON OWEN

— ATTORNEYS —

425 W. Capitol Ave, Suite 3800, Little Rock, AR 72201

www.gill-law.com • (501) 376-3800

ARKANSAS UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

Gill Ragon Owen stands ready to assist you through these trying times.

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (“PUA”) program enacted in the CARES Act provides unemployment benefits for self-employed individuals and independent contractors who are not ordinarily eligible. Arkansas’s current unemployment claims system is not able to process these types of claims, and the Division of Workforce Services is working to launch a separate system. On April 24, 2020, Commerce Secretary Mike Preston announced that the system should be launched and available for claims intake by the end of April. He anticipates more than 125,000 initial claims, which could cause an initial delay of processing claims. Persons making claims under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program can backdate their claims to as early as March 18.

The State has launched a website for updates on the PUA system, available at https://arkansasdws.formstack.com/forms/pua_information. Individuals may also sign up to be notified via email when the system goes live.

Secretary Preston also announced that the website for traditional unemployment claims, www.ezarc.adws.arkansas.gov, will be taken offline around 6 a.m. on Saturday, April 25, to move to a larger main-frame. The site should be back online around noon, and will be able to process more claims without crashing.

For more information on this program, and other COVID-19 related topics, please review our COVID-19 Resources page here: <https://www.gill-law.com/covid-19-resources/#>