



NEWS & UPDATES

Spring is here and summer will arrive before we know it. Thanks for checking in with IDOL and subscribing to our newsletter. Below is a look at what's happening with the Department.

Child Labor Law and Summer Jobs

Summer is almost here and that means teenagers will be looking for a summer job. IDOL regulates employment of workers under 16-years-old, protecting children by:

- requiring an employment certificate;
- prohibiting work in hazardous occupations;
- prohibiting work in a place of business where alcohol is served or sold for consumption on site, and in places where alcohol is brewed, distilled and/or bottled; and
- limiting working hours: child workers are prohibited from working before 7 a.m. and after 9 p.m. from June 1 through Labor Day.
- Child Labor Information: (312) 793-5570

Amusement Ride and Attraction Safety

Summer is also time for visiting carnivals, fairs and amusement parks. Under Illinois law, all rides must be insured, inspected, and meet applicable safety standards before they are allowed to operate. To be inspected, every owner must first submit a completed application packet to IDOL. Once a ride or attraction has been approved for operation by an inspector, a permit decal is affixed to each ride or attraction. You can see an example decal here.

IDOL Produces 2024 Apprenticeship Report

Warmer months also mean busy season for public works construction and infrastructure projects. Did you know that pursuant to the Construction Minority and Female Building Trades Act (30 ILCS 577), IDOL collects data regarding the race, gender, ethnicity, and national origin of apprentices in the construction industry throughout Illinois? The findings from this year's survey show a small but significant increase in the number of female and African-American apprentices, both of which ticked up by 1% from 2023 to 2024. A link to the full report can be found here.

Leave Rights Division

The Leave Rights Division enforces four laws that give Illinois workers rights to paid and unpaid time away from work: the Child Extended Bereavement Leave Act, Employee Sick Leave Act, Family Bereavement Leave Act, and the Paid Leave for All Workers Act (PLAWA). There's new and updated information in the FAQ for each law enforced, and a new recording of the PLAWA "What Employers Should Know" webinar has been uploaded to our website. If you would like a presentation for your organization, contact Lydia Colunga-Merchant at lydia.colungamerchant@illinois.gov.

Informal Resolution and Mediation Unit Proactive Resolution Project

The Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) Informal Resolution and Mediation Unit's (IRMU) proactive resolution project attempts to resolve wage claims for amounts under \$250. Eligible complaints were identified during wage claim process and referred to the IRMU for proactive resolution. The project's goal was to speed up the resolution of low dollar claims, get money to workers faster, and help employers save the time and resources of litigation. In the last three months of 2024, the team collected nearly \$20,000 on over 275 claims where the complainant alleged that he or she was owed \$250 or less.

Upcoming Events

May 26 - Memorial Day (Offices Closed)

June 19 - Juneteenth (Offices Closed)

July 4 - Independence Day (Offices Closed)

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