

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TWC Prosecutes Three Rio Grande-Area Claimants for Unemployment Insurance Fraud**

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) warns that criminal prosecutions for Unemployment Insurance (UI) fraud are being pursued aggressively. During the first quarter of 2007, three Rio Grande-area claimants were prosecuted for fraud with restitution ordered in these prosecutions totaling \$15,548. The Rio Grande-area claimants are among 51 prosecuted for fraud statewide with restitution ordered totaling \$295,937 statewide for the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund.

### **Cameron County**

- **Prescilla Garza**, 33, of Cameron County received one year deferred adjudication probation on the charge of misdemeanor theft after paying \$3,200 restitution. Garza was ordered to pay a \$250 fine and perform 80 hours community service.

### **Hidalgo County**

- **Raul Garcia Jr.**, 45, of Hidalgo County received five years deferred adjudication probation on the charge of state jail felony theft. He was ordered to pay \$4,620 restitution, a \$750 fine and \$278 court costs, and to perform 120 hours community service.
- **Ernesto Solis**, 41, of Hidalgo County received two years deferred adjudication probation on the charge of state jail felony theft. Solis was ordered to pay \$7,728 restitution and \$291 court costs, and to perform 120 hours community service.

TWC enforces all regulatory statutes within the jurisdiction of the agency, including UI Tax, Workforce, Trade Act, Skills Development, Self-Sufficiency, Child Care and all other programs TWC administers. TWC has made prevention, detection and elimination of fraud and abuse a priority, 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. Through its Fraud Detection Department, TWC regularly cross-matches UI claims with employer wage reports and other databases to detect possible UI fraud. When 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.

Once fraud is detected, criminal charges, including felony charges if supported by the facts, are pursued with the appropriate state district attorney offices. Conviction may result in incarceration and/or restitution, and may invoke additional charges for court costs and fines, and require community service.

To learn about TWC's fraud initiatives or how to report it, visit the TWC Web site at [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org) and select "Report Fraud." Anyone wishing to report suspected program abuse, waste or fraud related to UI or any other TWC program may e-mail [twc.fraud@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:twc.fraud@twc.state.tx.us). Callers who wish to remain anonymous may use the toll-free TWC Fraud and Abuse Hotline – (800) 252-3642.

Monthly updates on fraud convictions are available on TWC's Web site at <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/ui/bnfts/prosecutiondispo.html>.

*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).*

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