

ON THE DOLE

YOUR GUIDE
TO UNEMPLOYMENT
BENEFIT



PLUS
OTHER THINGS
YOU NEED
TO KNOW

PETER LAWRIE

On the dole

*Your guide to Unemployment Benefit
plus other things you need to know*

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This book is intended as a simple guide to the employment benefit regulations. It is not a definitive statement of the law and the publishers cannot accept the consequences of any misstatement, though every effort has been made to make this guide accurate. Benefit rates now change at frequent intervals so the accuracy of these may be in question. See the last two pages of the book to check that the rates have not changed since compilation.

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Introduction

We are used to hearing pronouncements from the Department of Health and Social Security — the Ministry responsible for putting out information about the various state benefits — that their aim is to provide full information about these benefits to the public. In fact their actions belie their words, as most of the information they put out is extremely hard to understand, even for their own officials.

The aim of this book, which is written by someone who has served a lengthy apprenticeship on the wrong side of the counter of various Employment Exchanges, is to express in simple language what all the Unemployment Regulations are about, and also to give some advice and information generally about being unemployed. It is hoped that this book will enable those people who are forced to draw the dole to understand their position and to be able to cope with the officials, who can be extremely intimidating at times. It is bad enough being unemployed with all the social disadvantages that this implies, without also feeling yourself at the mercy of a near incomprehensible system. Perhaps the book will also serve as a simple book of reference for those junior officials of the Department of Employment whose own knowledge of the regulations is not always complete.

This book is not intended to help the minority of free-loaders and spongers whose aim is to abuse the system. In fact it is not so easy to abuse as the public might think.

ON THE DOLE

Your Guide to Unemployment Benefit

- HOW WILL BEING ON THE DOLE AFFECT ME? MY FAMILY?
- AM I ENTITLED TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT?
- WHERE DO I GO TO SIGN ON?
- HOW MUCH WILL I GET?
- WHAT DOCUMENTS WILL I NEED?
- WHAT FORMS WILL I HAVE TO FILL IN?
- HOW DO I REGISTER FOR SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT?
- CAN I CLAIM EARNINGS RELATED SUPPLEMENT?
- HOW DO I CLAIM FOR DEPENDANTS?
- CAN I CLAIM FOR FREE DENTAL TREATMENT & PRESCRIPTIONS? FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR THE CHILDREN? HELP WITH HP? ETC, ETC.

This book gives you the quick answers to all these questions — and more.

The Author

Peter Lawrie is the pseudonym of an Honours Graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, who has studied for the Bar. He has been on the dole, on and off, for the last three years, so knows the system inside out.

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