

Deadline near for GM benefits

General Motors workers laid off just prior to Thanksgiving because of a strike at a GM plant in Kokomo, Ind., have a limited amount of time remaining in which they can file claims for unemployment benefits.

Michigan Unemployment Security Commission (MESC) Director James J. Simmons Jr. said Michigan GM workers who became unemployed as a result of the Kokomo strike may be eligible for flexible week unemployment benefits.

Some 7,900 Detroit-area GM

workers may be eligible for these unemployment benefits. Those who have not yet filed claims have only until Wednesday, Dec. 24, to do so, he advised.

THE EIGHT GM plants affected by the Kokomo strike, Simmons said, were: Buick, Oldsmobile, Cadillac (BOC) Detroit Hamtramck, BOC Cadillac Detroit, BOC Fleetwood Detroit, AC Spark Plug Flint, BOC Willow Run, BOC Orion Assembly, Truck and Bus Pontiac, and Truck and Bus Flint Assembly.

"Among the eight affected GM plants, virtually all of the workers who qualify for benefits work at three Detroit-area plants — BOC Fleetwood, BOC Hamtramck and BOC Cadillac," he said.

Flexible week unemployment benefits are payable, Simmons explained, if a worker is unemployed for seven straight days during a two-week period, and the worker earns an amount at least equal to what he would receive in unemployment benefits for those weeks.

TO RECEIVE the flexible week unemployment benefits, Simmons said GM workers had to become unemployed no later than Wednesday, Nov. 19.

The Kokomo plant strike began on Nov. 17. Michigan workers affected by the strike became unemployed later in that week. The strike ended on Nov. 21, but most Michigan workers did not begin returning to their jobs until Dec. 2 when Kokomo-produced parts were available in their plants.

State Bar sets panel on child custody law

A child custody symposium will be offered in Southfield by the State Bar of Michigan's family law section. It's geared for family law practitioners with child custody cases.

The symposium is scheduled for 4-6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, in Michigan Inn, 16400 J.L. Hudson Drive.

Panellists — including Oakland Circuit Judge Steven Andrews and

Wayne Circuit Judge Marvin Stempson — will discuss use of the Friend of the Court office, behavioral science specialist and third-party custody claims. Moderator will be attorney Richard S. Victor of Birmingham.

Cost will be \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Contact Richard S. Victor at 646-7177 for registration information. Enrollment is limited.

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