Is your boss stealing from you?

You have a right to every dollar you earn — but some bosses try to cheat. It’s called **wage theft**, and it’s a crime. If you know what to look for, you can call them out, so you get your money and they don’t get away with it.

**What to watch out for:**

- **Paying less than minimum wage**
  In Ohio, that’s $9.30/hr, or $4.65 for tipped workers.

- **Stealing your tips**
  Tips are yours. Bosses don’t get to take any part of them.

- **Not making up the difference when tips aren’t enough**
  If your salary + tips = less than $9.30/hr, the boss has to pay the difference.

- **Paying less than time-&#x2013;&#x2013;-a-half for OT**
  If you’re paid by the hour, the boss has to pay 1.5x your regular rate for anything more than 40 hours a week.

- **Requiring you to work when you’re off the clock**
  When you’re working, they’re paying. Every minute, every hour.

- **Cheating or denying break time**
  If you’re not getting paid for break time, you have the right to completely stop working. Breaks are required for minors: 30 minutes every 5 hours.

- **Paying with gift cards, etc.**
  It’s your pay; you have to be able to spend it where you want.

- **Misclassification**
  Bosses might try to say you’re an “independent contractor,” so they don’t have to offer benefits, and they can stick you with their tax bill. They might try to say you’re on salary (not hourly) so they don’t have to pay OT.

- **Illegal deductions from your paycheck**
  Some deductions are required by law. But read the fine print: Bosses might try to deduct “fees” that go right back into their own pockets.

**What to do if your boss is stealing from you**
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If you are a union member talk to your steward.
Unions are working people’s best tool for standing up to bosses.

If you are not a union member contact a Worker Center:

Northeast Ohio Worker Center
workercenterneo@gmail.com
neoworkercenter.org

Central Ohio Worker Center
centralohioworkercenter@gmail.com
centralohioworkercenter.org

Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center
info@cworkers.org
cworkers.org
513-621-5991

Learn more about wage theft at policymattersohio.org/wagetheft