

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

---

**JACOB C PUDENZ**  
Claimant

**DENISON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Employer

**APPEAL 21A-UI-04962-ED-T**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 03/29/20**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

---

Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quitting  
Iowa Code § 96.5(2)a – Discharge for Misconduct  
Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant/appellant filed an appeal from the July 13, 2020, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that held claimant ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on April 15, 2021. Claimant, Jacob Pudenz, participated personally. Employer, Denison Community School District, participated through Scott Larson.

**ISSUES:**

Was the claimant discharged for disqualifying job-related misconduct?  
Did claimant voluntarily quit the employment with good cause attributable to employer?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant was employed as a part-time strength and conditioning coach and was separated from employment on February 25, 2020, when he voluntarily quit.

Prior to quitting his employment with this employer, the claimant had decided to open his own business. Claimant was self-employed after leaving Denison Community School District.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge finds that the claimant voluntarily left the employment to become self-employed.

Iowa Code §96.5(1) provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

1. Voluntary quitting. If the individual has left work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the individual's employer, if so found by the department.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.28(5) provides:

Voluntary quit requalifications and previously adjudicated voluntary quit issues.

(5) The claimant shall be eligible for benefits even though the claimant voluntarily quit if the claimant left for the sole purpose of accepting an offer of other or better employment, which the claimant did accept, and from which the claimant is separated, before or after having started the new employment. The employment does not have to be covered employment and does not include self-employment.

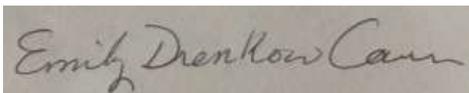
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-23.43(5) provides:

(5) Sole purpose. The claimant shall be eligible for benefits even though the claimant voluntarily quit if the claimant left for the sole purpose of accepting an offer of other or better employment, which the claimant did accept, and from which the claimant is separated, before or after having started the new employment. No charge shall accrue to the account of the former voluntarily quit employer.

The separation was without good cause attributable to the employer, and would, standing alone, disqualify the claimant from receiving benefits. Further, the claimant did leave the employment in order to become self-employed. Because self-employment is specifically excluded in the requalification language, claimant is disqualified from receiving benefits. As such, benefits are denied.

**DECISION:**

The July 13, 2020, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. Benefits are denied.



---

Emily Drenkow Carr  
Administrative Law Judge  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau  
1000 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209  
Fax (515) 478-3528

---

April 19, 2021  
Decision Dated and Mailed

ed/kmj

NOTE TO CLAIMANT: You may find additional information about food, housing, and other resources by dialing 211 or at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/node/3250>

*Note to Claimant:* This decision determines you are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. If you disagree with this decision you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision. Individuals who do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility under the program.** Additional information on how to apply for PUA can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>.