

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU**

BASSAI J BODJONA
Claimant

APPEAL 22A-UI-14762-AW-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

REACH FOR YOUR POTENTIAL INC
Employer

OC: 03/29/20
Claimant: Appellant (4)

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from the June 28, 2022 (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision that found claimant was overpaid unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on August 17, 2022. Claimant participated. French interpretation was provided by Richard (ID 15030) of CTS Language Link. Employer participated through Bobbi Chipman, Human Resources Director. No exhibits were admitted. Official notice was taken of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Whether claimant is totally, partially or temporarily unemployed.
Whether claimant correctly reported wages earned.
Whether claimant is eligible for benefits based on wages earned.
Whether claimant is overpaid UI benefits.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

Claimant filed an initial claim for UI benefits effective March 29, 2020. Claimant's weekly benefit amount was \$500.00.

The following charge reflects the weeks that claimant filed ongoing weekly claims; the wages claimant submitted on his weekly claims; the wages, holiday and vacation pay that employer reported claimant earned and received each week and the amount of UI benefits paid to claimant:

Benefit Week Ending	Wages Submitted by Claimant	Wages Reported by Employer	Holiday Pay Reported by Employer	Vacation Pay Reported by Employer	UI Benefits Paid to Claimant
10/03/20	\$420.00	\$383.41			\$205.00
10/10/20	\$400.00	\$294.53			\$225.00
10/17/20	\$400.00	\$104.67			\$225.00
10/24/20	\$400.00	\$439.41		\$90.23	\$225.00
10/31/20	\$420.00	\$507.38			\$205.00
11/07/20	\$400.00	\$527.06			\$225.00
11/14/20	\$400.00	\$522.23			\$225.00
11/21/20	\$450.00	\$440.41			\$175.00
11/28/20	\$400.00	\$505.14	\$24.76		\$225.00
12/05/20	\$400.00	\$521.64	\$61.95		\$225.00
12/12/20	\$350.00	\$585.02			\$275.00
12/19/20	\$300.00	\$316.35		\$297.36	\$325.00
12/26/20	\$300.00			\$198.24	\$325.00

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes:

Iowa Code section 96.3(7) states:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits.

a. If an individual receives benefits for which the individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible, even though the individual acts in good faith and is not otherwise at fault, the benefits shall be recovered. The department in its discretion may recover the overpayment of benefits either by having a sum equal to the overpayment deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual or by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to the overpayment.

Iowa Code section 96.5(5) provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits, regardless of the source of the individual's wage credits:

5. Other compensation.

a. For any week with respect to which the individual is receiving or has received payment in the form of any of the following:

- (1) Wages in lieu of notice, separation allowance, severance pay, or dismissal pay.
- (2) Compensation for temporary disability under the workers' compensation law of any state or under a similar law of the United States.
- (3) A governmental or other pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity, or any other similar periodic payment made under a plan maintained or contributed to by a base period or chargeable employer where, except for benefits under the federal Social Security Act or the federal Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 or the corresponding

provisions of prior law, the plan's eligibility requirements or benefit payments are affected by the base period employment or the remuneration for the base period employment. However, this subparagraph shall only be applicable if the base period employer has made one hundred percent of the contribution to the plan.

b. Provided, that if the remuneration is less than the benefits which would otherwise be due under this chapter, the individual is entitled to receive for the week, if otherwise eligible, benefits reduced by the amount of the remuneration. Provided further, if benefits were paid for any week under this chapter for a period when benefits, remuneration or compensation under paragraph "a", subparagraph (1), (2), or (3), were paid on a retroactive basis for the same period, or any part thereof, the department shall recover the excess amount of benefits paid by the department for the period, and no employer's account shall be charged with benefits so paid. However, compensation for service-connected disabilities or compensation for accrued leave based on military service by the beneficiary with the armed forces of the United States, irrespective of the amount of the benefit, does not disqualify any individual otherwise qualified from any of the benefits contemplated herein. A deduction shall not be made from the amount of benefits payable for a week for individuals receiving federal social security pensions to take into account the individuals' contributions to the pension program.

Iowa Code section 96.3(3) provides:

3. Partial unemployment. An individual who is partially unemployed in any week as defined in section 96.1A, subsection 37, paragraph "b", and who meets the conditions of eligibility for benefits shall be paid with respect to that week an amount equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount less that part of wages payable to the individual with respect to that week in excess of one-fourth of the individual's weekly benefit amount. The benefits shall be rounded to the lower multiple of one dollar.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.13(2)a provides (emphasis added):

(2) Deductible payments from benefits. The following payments are **considered as wages and are deductible from benefits on the basis of the formula used to compute an individual's weekly benefit payment as provided in rule 24.18(96)**:

a. **Holiday pay.** However, if the actual entitlement to the holiday pay is subsequently not paid by the employer, the individual may request an underpayment adjustment from the department.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.18 provides (emphasis added):

Wage-earnings limitation. An individual who is partially unemployed may earn weekly a sum equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount plus \$15 before being disqualified for excessive earnings. If such individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus \$15, the formula for **wage deduction shall be a sum equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount less that part of wages, payable to the individual with respect to that week and rounded to the lower multiple of one dollar, in excess of one-fourth of the individual's weekly benefit amount.**

Iowa Code section 96.5(7)a-c provides (emphasis added):

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits, regardless of the source of the individual's wage credits:

7. Vacation pay.

a. When an employer makes a payment or becomes obligated to make a payment to an individual for vacation pay, or for vacation pay allowance, or as pay in lieu of vacation, such payment or amount shall be deemed "wages" as defined in section 96.1A, subsection 41, and shall be applied as provided in paragraph "c" hereof.

b. When, in connection with a separation or layoff of an individual, the individual's employer makes a payment or payments to the individual, or becomes obligated to make a payment to the individual as, or in the nature of, vacation pay, or vacation pay allowance, or as pay in lieu of vacation. The amount of a payment or obligation to make payment, is deemed "wages" as defined in section 96.1A, subsection 41, and shall be applied as provided in paragraph "c" of this subsection 7.

c. Of the wages described in paragraph "a" or paragraph "b", a sum equal to the wages of such individual for a normal workday shall be attributed to, or deemed to be payable to the individual with respect to, the first and each subsequent workday in such period until such amount so paid or owing is exhausted, not to exceed five workdays. Any individual receiving or entitled to receive wages as provided herein shall be ineligible for benefits for any week in which the sums equal or exceed the individual's weekly benefit amount. **If the amount is less than the weekly benefit amount of such individual, the individual's benefits shall be reduced by such amount.**

For the weeks ending November 7, 2020, November 14, 2020, November 28, 2020, December 5, 2020, and December 12, 2020, claimant worked and earned more than \$515.00 (his weekly benefit payment of \$500.00 plus \$15.00). Therefore, claimant was not totally or partially unemployed and was not entitled to benefits.

For the weeks ending October 3, 2020, October 10, 2020, October 17, 2020, October 31, 2020, and November 21, 2020, claimant worked but earned less than \$515.00. Therefore, claimant was partially unemployed and was entitled to partial benefit payments according to the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} & \$ (\text{wages}) - \$ (25\% \text{ of WBA}) = \$ (\text{wage deduction}) \\ & \$ (\text{WBA}) - \$ (\text{wage deduction}) = \$ (\text{partial weekly benefit amount}) \end{aligned}$$

For the week ending December 26, 2020, claimant earned vacation pay of \$198.00. Vacation pay is deducted directly from the weekly benefit amount (i.e. no formula is applied). Therefore, claimant was entitled to a partial benefit payment of \$302.00 (\$500.00 – \$198.00).

For the benefit weeks ending October 24, 2020 and December 19, 2020, claimant earned a combination of wages and vacation pay. As outlined above, the wages are deducted accordingly to a formula and the vacation pay is deducted dollar-for-dollar. Therefore, claimant was entitled to partial benefit payments according to the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} & \$ (\text{wages}) - \$ (25\% \text{ of WBA}) = \$ (\text{wage deduction}) \\ & \$ (\text{WBA}) - \$ (\text{wage deduction}) - \$ (\text{vacation pay}) = \$ (\text{partial weekly benefit amount}) \end{aligned}$$

The following chart reflects the benefits claimant received, the benefits claimant was entitled to and the resulting underpayment or overpayment:

Benefit Week Ending	Benefits Paid to Claimant	Benefits Claimant was Entitled to	Under Payment	Over Payment
10/03/20	\$205.00	\$242.00	\$37.00	
10/10/20	\$225.00	\$331.00	\$106.00	
10/17/20	\$225.00	\$500.00	\$275.00	
10/24/20	\$225.00	\$96.00		\$129.00
10/31/20	\$205.00	\$118.00		\$87.00
11/07/20	\$225.00	\$0.00		\$225.00
11/14/20	\$225.00	\$0.00		\$225.00
11/21/20	\$175.00	\$185.00	\$10.00	
11/28/20	\$225.00	\$0.00		\$225.00
12/05/20	\$225.00	\$0.00		\$225.00
12/12/20	\$275.00	\$0.00		\$275.00
12/19/20	\$325.00	\$12.00		\$313.00
12/26/20	\$325.00	\$302.00		\$23.00
		TOTAL:	\$428.00	\$1,727.00

Claimant was underpaid a total of \$428.00 and overpaid a total of \$1,727.00. Therefore, claimant's net overpayment is \$1,299.00 (\$1,727.00 - \$428.00). Claimant is required to repay those benefits.

DECISION:

The June 28, 2022 (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision is MODIFIED IN FAVOR OF APPELLANT. Claimant is overpaid UI benefits in the net amount of \$1,299.00, which must be repaid.



Adrienne C. Williamson
Administrative Law Judge

September 29, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

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APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board
4th Floor – Lucas Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515)281-7191
Online: eab.iowa.gov**

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday.

AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL STATE CLEARLY:

- 1) The name, address, and social security number of the claimant.
- 2) A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
- 3) That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
- 4) The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> or by contacting the District Court Clerk of Court <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Note to Parties: YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds.

Note to Claimant: It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

SERVICE INFORMATION:

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN. Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board
4th Floor – Lucas Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515)281-7191
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal.

UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que se encuentra en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> o comunicándose con el Tribunal de Distrito Secretario del tribunal <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Nota para las partes: USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

Nota para el reclamante: es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.