

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

AYAWOVI K AGBODOH

Claimant

APPEAL 21A-UI-06526-S2-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

GRAPETREE MEDICAL STAFFING INC

Employer

OC: 06/07/20

Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.19(38)a & b – Total and Partial Unemployment

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(26) – Availability Disqualifications Same Hours and Wages

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2)i(3) – Availability for Work – On-call Workers

Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(2) – Same Base Period Employment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the February 12, 2021, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits effective June 7, 2020. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on May 10, 2021. Claimant Ayawovi K. Agbodoh participated through a French interpreter with CTS Language Link. Employer Grapetree Medical Staffing, Inc. participated through human resources specialist Zachary Myer. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative file.

ISSUES:

Is the claimant eligible for total or partial unemployment benefits?

Is claimant employed for the same hours and wages?

Is the claimant able to and available for work?

Is the claimant an on-call worker?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant started working for this employer as a part-time, on-call certified nursing assistant (CNA) on December 24, 2018. Claimant was separated from her employment on November 25, 2020.

Claimant was hired to work as a CNA on a part-time, as needed basis, with no guarantee of a certain number of hours each week. Claimant understood these terms at the time of her hire and they did not change throughout the course of her employment.

The last day claimant worked for this employer was May 18, 2019. Claimant went on a leave of absence for two months and did not accept any shifts when she returned. Claimant filed for benefits after becoming separated from another part-time job.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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

Iowa Code section 96.4(3) provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

3. The individual is able to work, is available for work, and is earnestly and actively seeking work. This subsection is waived if the individual is deemed partially unemployed, while employed at the individual's regular job, as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "b", unnumbered paragraph (1), or temporarily unemployed as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "c". The work search requirements of this subsection and the disqualification requirement for failure to apply for, or to accept suitable work of section 96.5, subsection 3 are waived if the individual is not disqualified for benefits under section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraph "h".

Iowa Code section 96.19(38) provides:

Definitions.

38. Total and partial unemployment

a. An individual shall be deemed "totally unemployed" in any week with respect to which no wages are payable to the individual and during which the individual performs no services.

b. An individual shall be deemed partially unemployed in any week in which either of the following apply:

(1) While employed at the individual's then regular job, the individual works less than the regular full-time week and in which the individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

(2) The individual, having been separated from the individual's regular job, earns at odd jobs less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

c. An individual shall be deemed temporarily unemployed if for a period, verified by the department, not to exceed four consecutive weeks, the individual is unemployed due to a plant shutdown, vacation, inventory, lack of work or emergency from the individual's regular job or trade in which the individual worked full-time and will again work full-time, if the individual's employment, although temporarily suspended, has not been terminated.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22 provides, in relevant part:

Benefits eligibility conditions. For an individual to be eligible to receive benefits the department must find that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. The individual bears the burden of establishing that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work.

(1) Able to work. An individual must be physically and mentally able to work in some gainful employment, not necessarily in the individual's customary occupation, but which is engaged in by others as a means of livelihood.

...

(2) Available for work. The availability requirement is satisfied when an individual is willing, able, and ready to accept suitable work which the individual does not have good cause to refuse, that is, the individual is genuinely attached to the labor market. Since, under unemployment insurance laws, it is the availability of an individual that is required to be tested, the labor market must be described in terms of the individual. A labor market for an individual means a market for the type of service which the individual offers in the geographical area in which the individual offers the service. Market in that sense does not mean that job vacancies must exist; the purpose of unemployment insurance is to compensate for lack of job vacancies. It means only that the type of services which an individual is offering is generally performed in the geographical area in which the individual is offering the services.

...

i. On-call workers.

(1) Substitute workers (i.e., post office clerks, railroad extra board workers), who hold themselves available for one employer and who do not accept other work, are not available for work within the meaning of the law and are not eligible for benefits.

...

(3) An individual whose wage credits earned in the base period of the claim consist exclusively of wage credits by performing on-call work, such as a banquet worker, railway worker, substitute school teacher or any other individual whose work is solely on-call work during the base period, is not considered an unemployed individual within the meaning of Iowa Code section 96.19(38)"a" and "b." An individual who is willing to accept only on-call work is not considered to be available for work.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23 provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

(26) Where a claimant is still employed in a part-time job at the same hours and wages as contemplated in the original contract for hire and is not working on a reduced workweek basis different from the contract for hire, such claimant cannot be considered partially unemployed.

Under Iowa Employment Security Law, an individual must be unemployed through no fault of their own to be eligible for benefits. Iowa Code §§ 96.2 and 96.19(38). Total and temporary unemployment occur when someone has received no wages and performed no services during any given week. *Id.* In order to be partially unemployed, an individual must be laid off from full-time employment or working less than his or her regular full-time work week. *Id.* If an individual

is employed in a part-time position working the same hours and wages as contemplated at hire, he or she cannot be considered partially unemployed. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(26).

Because claimant was hired to work only on-call or as-needed, she is not considered unemployed within the meaning of the law as it pertains to this employer. When an individual is hired to work on-call, the implied agreement is that they will only work when work is available and that work will not be regularly available. Thus any reduction in hours is directly related to the on-call status as no regular hours are guaranteed. Effective June 7, 2020, claimant was employed under the same hours and wages as contemplated at hire and consistent with her base period wage history with this employer. Therefore, claimant was not totally or partially unemployed. Benefits are denied effective June 7, 2020.

DECISION:

The February 12, 2021, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. Claimant was still employed in her part-time job at the same hours and same wages as in her original contract of hire and was therefore not partially unemployed effective June 7, 2020.



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

May 20, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

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