

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

**ADAM J EVEN**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 07A-UI-05541-H2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**HAMPTON HYDRAULICS INC**  
Employer

**OC: 05-06-07 R: 02  
Claimant: Respondent (2)**

Section 96.5-1 – Voluntary Leaving  
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) - Recovery of Benefit Overpayment

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The employer filed a timely appeal from the May 30, 2007, reference 02, decision that allowed benefits. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held on June 14, 2007. The claimant did not participate. The employer did participate through Laura Hovenga, Human Resources Manager.

**ISSUES:**

Did the claimant voluntarily quit his employment with good cause attributable to the employer?

Has the claimant been overpaid any unemployment insurance benefits?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed the testimony and all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant was employed as a machinist part time beginning July 5, 2006 through December 19, 2006 when he voluntarily quit.

The claimant failed to report for work or notify the employer of his absences for three consecutive scheduled workdays beginning December 15, 2007 and including December 16 and December 17, 2007 in violation of the employer's policy.

The claimant never reported to the employer that he was having any problems or issues with any coworker. When the employer first learned that the claimant had allegedly quit because of harassment from a coworker during the fact-finding interview, they immediately investigated even though the claimant had already quit. Even at the fact-finding interview the claimant would not reveal which employee was allegedly harassing him.

Claimant has received unemployment benefits since filing a claim with an effective date of May 6, 2007.

## REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant voluntarily left employment without good cause attributable to the employer.

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.

871 IAC 24.25(4) provides:

Voluntary quit without good cause. In general, a voluntary quit means discontinuing the employment because the employee no longer desires to remain in the relationship of an employee with the employer from whom the employee has separated. The employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.5. However, the claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving Iowa Code § 96.5, subsection (1), paragraphs "a" through "i," and subsection 10. The following reasons for a voluntary quit shall be presumed to be without good cause attributable to the employer:

(4) The claimant was absent for three days without giving notice to employer in violation of company rule.

Inasmuch as the claimant failed to report for work or notify the employer for three consecutive workdays in violation of the employer policy, the claimant is considered to have voluntarily left employment without good cause attributable to the employer.

While the claimant alleged at the fact-finding interview that he was being harassed, he never informed the employer of this prior to quitting. The employer's credible testimony was that they had no idea the claimant was being harassed. The claimant has not established he was subjected to any harassment or to intolerable working conditions. Thus, benefits are withheld.

Iowa Code § 96.3-7 provides:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits. 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.

If the department determines that an overpayment has been made, the charge for the overpayment against the employer's account shall be removed and the account shall be credited with an amount equal to the overpayment from the unemployment compensation trust fund and this credit shall include both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

Because claimant's separation was disqualifying, benefits were paid to which claimant was not entitled. Those benefits must be recovered in accordance with the provisions of Iowa law.

**DECISION:**

The May 30, 2007, reference 02, decision is reversed. The claimant voluntarily left employment without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are withheld until such time as he has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times his weekly benefit amount, provided he is otherwise eligible. Claimant is overpaid benefits in the amount of \$466.00.

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Teresa K. Hillary  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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