

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

SAMANTHA NARANJO
Claimant

APPEAL NO: 12A-UI-09197-ET

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 02-05-12
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Section 96.3-7 – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the July 20, 2012, reference 02, decision that determined she was overpaid benefits in the amount of \$7,905.00. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call before Administrative Law Judge Julie Elder on August 23, 2012. The claimant participated in the hearing.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant is overpaid unemployment insurance benefits.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The overpayment issue in this case was created by a disqualification decision that has now been affirmed. The claimant and employer both participated in the fact-finding interview held regarding the underlying separation issue that resulted in the overpayment. The claimant received \$217.00 for the 31 weeks ending February 4, 2012; including \$44.00 for the one week ending November 26, 2011, when her regular unemployment benefits were exhausted; and \$189.00 for the six weeks ending March 17, 2012, for a total of \$7,905.00.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 96.3-7, as amended in 2008, provides:

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.

b. (1) 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. However, provided the benefits were not received as the result of fraud or willful misrepresentation by the individual, benefits shall not be recovered from an individual if the employer did not participate in the initial determination to award benefits pursuant to section 96.6, subsection 2, and an overpayment occurred because of a subsequent reversal on appeal regarding the issue of the individual's separation from employment. The employer shall not be charged with the benefits.

(2) An accounting firm, agent, unemployment insurance accounting firm, or other entity that represents an employer in unemployment claim matters and demonstrates a continuous pattern of failing to participate in the initial determinations to award benefits, as determined and defined by rule by the department, shall be denied permission by the department to represent any employers in unemployment insurance matters. This subparagraph does not apply to attorneys or counselors admitted to practice in the courts of this state pursuant to section 602.10101.

The administrative law judge concludes that the claimant has been overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$7,905.00 pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.3-7 as the disqualification decision that created the overpayment decision has now been affirmed.

DECISION:

The July 20, 2012, reference 02, decision is affirmed. The claimant has been overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$7,905.00.

Julie Elder
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

je/pjs