

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

JENNIFER M KOVACS
Claimant

APPEAL NO: 06A-UI-09284-MT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**L & A CORPORATION INC
MERTZ ENGINEERING CO**
Employer

**OC: 08/20/06 R: 01
Claimant: Respondent (2)**

Section 96.5-1 – Voluntary Quit
Section 96.3-7 – Recovery of Overpayment of Benefits

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Employer filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated September 13, 2006, reference 01, which held claimant eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After due notice, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled for and held on October 3, 2006. Claimant participated. Employer participated by Beth Olsen, Human Resources and Chris Anderson, President. Exhibit One was admitted into evidence.

ISSUES:

The issues in this matter are whether the claimant quit for good cause attributable to the employer and whether claimant is overpaid unemployment insurance benefits.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant last worked for employer on August 16, 2006. Claimant was counseled on August 16, 2006 to start looking for a new job over the next couple of weeks. Claimant had continued employment for at least two weeks. Claimant was not told that her employment would be terminated after two weeks. Claimant immediately walked off the job. Claimant did not call in or report to work for the next three days. Employer's policy indicates that three no call absences are a voluntary quit. Claimant was informed of the policy at the time of hire.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The administrative law judge holds that the evidence has failed to establish that claimant voluntarily quit for good cause attributable to the employer when claimant terminated the employment relationship because of job abandonment. It is not good cause to quit after receiving a reprimand. Claimant had continued employment for at least two weeks and perhaps longer. Claimant left prior to any specific date set for termination of employment. This is a separation without cause attributable to employer. Benefits withheld.

Iowa Code section 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) and (28) provide:

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 section 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 section 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.

(28) The claimant left after being reprimanded.

The next issue concerns an overpayment of unemployment insurance benefits.

Iowa Code section 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.

The administrative law judge holds that claimant is overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$516.00 pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.3-7 because a decision has determined claimant is ineligible to receive benefits due to a voluntary quit without good cause attributable to employer.

Since claimant has been disqualified for the receipt of unemployment insurance benefits, the claim shall be locked until claimant has re-qualified or is otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated September 13, 2006, reference 01, is reversed. Unemployment insurance benefits are withheld until claimant has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times claimant's weekly benefit amount, provided claimant is otherwise eligible. Claimant is overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$516.00.

Marlon Mormann
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

mdm/cs