

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

DAVID D PAULSON
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 09A-UI-14991-ST

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

MIDWESTERN TRADING INC
Employer

**Original Claim: 03/30/09
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.5-5 – Severance Pay

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant appealed a representative's decision dated September 29, 2009, reference 03, that disqualified him for the week ending April 25, 2009, due to receiving severance pay from Midwestern Trading. A telephone hearing was held on November 5, 2009. The claimant participated. Marsha Stickle, HR Representative, participated for the employer. Official Notice was taken of the claimant's documents and the employer's protest to the notice of claim.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant received one week of severance pay.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony of the witnesses and having considered the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant was separated from employment and last worked on Monday, March 30, 2009. The employer protested his claim by designating a payment of severance pay (\$2,307.84) to apply from April 20, to April 27, 2009.

The claimant received an annual salary of \$100,000, which is \$1,923.00 weekly or \$384.60 per day for a five-day workweek. The employer paid him severance pay for six days based on his salary.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 96.5-7 provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits: ...

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 96.19, 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, and within ten calendar days after notification of the filing of the individual's claim, designates by notice in writing to the department the period to which the payment shall be allocated; provided, that if such designated period is extended by the employer, the individual may again similarly designate an extended period, by giving notice in writing to the department not later than the beginning of the extension of the period, with the same effect as if the period of extension were included in the original designation. The amount of a payment or obligation to make payment, is deemed "wages" as defined in section 96.19, subsection 41, and shall be applied as provided in paragraph "c" of this subsection 7.

c. Of the wages described in paragraph "a" (whether or not the employer has designated the period therein described), or of the wages described in paragraph "b", if the period therein described has been designated by the employer as therein provided, 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. Any individual receiving or entitled to receive wages as provided herein shall be ineligible for benefits for any week in which the sums, so designated or attributed to such normal workdays, equal or exceed the individual's weekly benefit amount. If the amount so designated or attributed as wages is less than the weekly benefit amount of such individual, the individual's benefits shall be reduced by such amount.

d. Notwithstanding contrary provisions in paragraphs "a", "b", and "c", if an individual is separated from employment and is scheduled to receive vacation payments during the period of unemployment attributable to the employer and if the employer does not designate the vacation period pursuant to paragraph "b", then payments made by the employer to the individual or an obligation to make a payment by the employer to the individual for vacation pay, vacation pay allowance or pay in lieu of vacation shall not be deemed wages as defined in section 96.19, subsection 41, for any period in excess of one week and such payments or the value of such obligations shall not be deducted for any period in excess of one week from the unemployment benefits the individual is otherwise entitled to receive under this chapter. However, if the employer designates more than one week as the vacation period pursuant to paragraph "b", the vacation pay, vacation pay allowance, or pay in lieu of vacation shall be considered wages and shall be deducted from benefits.

e. If an employer pays or is obligated to pay a bonus to an individual at the same time the employer pays or is obligated to pay vacation pay, a vacation pay allowance, or pay in lieu of vacation, the bonus shall not be deemed wages for purposes of determining benefit eligibility and amount, and the bonus shall not be deducted from unemployment benefits the individual is otherwise entitled to receive under this chapter.

The administrative law judge concludes that the employer properly protested and designated the six days of severance pay paid to the claimant in the gross amount of \$2,307.84, which is applied from April 20 to April 27, 2009.

Since the employer properly protested and designated the severance payment, it is applied on each of the six days (from April 20 to April 27) at the rate of \$384.60 based on the claimant's regular workweek and salary.

DECISION:

The representative's decision dated September 29, 2009, reference 03, is affirmed. The claimant received disqualifying severance pay for the week ending April 25, 2009.

Randy L. Stephenson
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

rls/kjw