

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

JERRY THAO
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 14A-UI-04454-H2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 09/29/13
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able and Available
871 IAC 24.39(2) – Department Approved Training (DAT)

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the April 28, 2014, (reference 07) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits finding the claimant not able to and available for work. After due notice was issued a hearing was held on May 19, 2014. The claimant did participate.

ISSUE:

Is the claimant able to and available for work?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant was laid off by his former employer and entered school. He is currently approved for DAT and did not understand how to answer the questions when he called in each week for work. The claimant is not required to make job searches as he is on Department Approved Training. He was able to and available for work each week he called in to file his continuing claim from April 6 through the date of hearing.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that ability to work and availability for work requirement is waived.

Iowa Code § 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 § 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "b", unnumbered paragraph 1, or temporarily unemployed as defined in § 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 § 96.5, subsection 3 are waived if the individual is not disqualified for benefits under § 96.5, subsection 1, paragraph "h".

Iowa Code § 96.4(6)a-b provides:

6. a. An otherwise eligible individual shall not be denied benefits for any week because the individual is in training with the approval of the director, nor shall the individual be denied benefits with respect to any week in which the individual is in training with the approval of the director by reason of the application of the provision in subsection 3 of this section relating to availability for work, and an active search for work or the provision of § 96.5, subsection 3, relating to failure to apply for or a refusal to accept suitable work. However, an employer's account shall not be charged with benefits so paid.

b. An otherwise eligible individual shall not be denied benefits for a week because the individual is in training approved under 19 U.S.C. § 2296(a), as amended by § 2506 of the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, because the individual leaves work which is not suitable employment to enter the approved training, or because of the application of subsection 3 of this section or § 96.5, subsection 3, or a federal unemployment insurance law administered by the department relating to availability for work, active search for work, or refusal to accept work.

For purposes of this paragraph, "suitable employment" means work of a substantially equal or higher skill level than an individual's past adversely affected employment, as defined in 19 U.S.C. § 2319(l), if weekly wages for the work are not less than eighty percent of the individual's average weekly wage.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.39 provides:

Department-approved training or retraining program. The intent of the department-approved training is to exempt the individual from the work search requirement for continued eligibility for benefits so individuals may pursue training that will upgrade necessary skills in order to return to the labor forces. In order to be eligible for department-approved training programs and to maintain continuing participation therein, the individual shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Any claimant for benefits who desires to receive benefits while attending school for training or retraining purposes shall make a written application to the department setting out the following:

a. The educational establishment at which the claimant would receive training.

b. The estimated time required for such training.

c. The occupation which the training is allowing the claimant to maintain or pursue.

(2) A claimant may receive unemployment insurance while attending a training course approved by the department. While attending the approved training course, the claimant need not be available for work or actively seeking work. After completion of department-approved training the claimant must, in order to continue to be eligible for unemployment

insurance, place no restriction on employability. The claimant must be able to work, available for work and be actively searching for work. In addition, the claimant may be subject to disqualification for any refusal of work without good cause after the claimant has completed the training.

(3) The claimant must show satisfactory attendance and progress in the training course and must demonstrate that such claimant has the necessary finances to complete the training to substantiate the expenditure of unemployment insurance funds.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code § 96.4(6).

As long as claimant remains eligible for DAT, the able and available requirement is waived pursuant to 871 IAC 24.39(2). The claimant misunderstood what he was to indicate when calling in due to his status as DAT approved. Accordingly, benefits are allowed.

DECISION:

The April 28, 2014, reference 07, decision is reversed. The ability to work and availability for work requirement is waived while claimant is eligible for DAT. Benefits are allowed.

Teresa K. Hillary
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/css