

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Section
1000 East Grand—Des Moines, Iowa 50319
DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
68-0157 (7-97) – 3091078 - EI

CARROLL D MIZE
6516 FM 1409
DAYTON TX 77535

QUALITY CARRIERS
2310 ARCHIE RD
SULPHUR LA 70633

Appeal Number: 05A-UI-03195-HT
OC: 01/23/05 R: 12
Claimant: Respondent (2)

This Decision Shall Become Final, unless within fifteen (15) days from the date below, you or any interested party appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by submitting either a signed letter or a signed written Notice of Appeal, directly to the **Employment Appeal Board, 4th Floor—Lucas Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319**.

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday.

STATE CLEARLY

1. The name, address and social security number of the claimant.
2. A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
3. That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
4. The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in this appeal or you may obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds. It is important that you file your claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

(Administrative Law Judge)

(Decision Dated & Mailed)

Section 96.5-3-a – Refusal of Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer, Quality Carriers, filed an appeal from a decision dated March 15, 2005, reference 01. The decision allowed benefits to the claimant, Carroll Mize. After due notice was issued a hearing was held by telephone conference call on April 13, 2005. The claimant provided a phone number of (936) 257-1165. That number was dialed at 10:03 a.m. and the claimant was not present. A message was left with the claimant's spouse that the hearing would proceed without his participation unless he called the toll-free number prior to the close of the record. By the time the record was closed at 10:13 a.m., the claimant had not responded and did not participate. A statement the claimant had faxed to the Appeals Section the day before the hearing was read into the record. The employer participated by Terminal Manager Jake Burgin.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony of the witness and having examined all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Carroll Mize applied for a job as a truck driver with Quality Carrier in February 2005. He was offered a position and the rate of pay would be 23 percent of each load he delivered. The employer sent him for a physical, which he passed, and enrolled him in a school to begin February 28, 2005. However, he did not attend that school due to misunderstand the date, and he was enrolled in another school to begin March 7, 2005.

On March 3, 2005, the claimant contacted Terminal Manager Jake Burgin and said he had accepted another job and would not be attending the class. In his written statement, the claimant indicated he had refused the job because another driver hired just before he was, had been given equipment which was not road worthy, a charge which the employer denied.

Carroll Mize has received unemployment benefits since filing a claim with an effective date of January 23, 2005.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue is whether the claimant is disqualified. The judge concludes he is.

Iowa Code section 96.5-3-a provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

3. Failure to accept work. If the department finds that an individual has failed, without good cause, either to apply for available, suitable work when directed by the department or to accept suitable work when offered that individual. The department shall, if possible, furnish the individual with the names of employers which are seeking employees. The individual shall apply to and obtain the signatures of the employers designated by the department on forms provided by the department. However, the employers may refuse to sign the forms. The individual's failure to obtain the signatures of designated employers, which have not refused to sign the forms, shall disqualify the individual for benefits until requalified. To requalify for benefits after disqualification under this subsection, the individual shall work in and be paid wages for insured work equal to ten times the individual's weekly benefit amount, provided the individual is otherwise eligible.

a. In determining whether or not any work is suitable for an individual, the department shall consider the degree of risk involved to the individual's health, safety, and morals, the individual's physical fitness, prior training, length of unemployment, and prospects for securing local work in the individual's customary occupation, the distance of the available work from the individual's residence, and any other factor which the department finds bears a reasonable relation to the purposes of this paragraph. Work is suitable if the work meets all the other criteria of this paragraph and if the gross weekly wages for the work equal or exceed the following percentages of the individual's average weekly wage for insured work paid to the individual during that quarter of the individual's base period in which the individual's wages were highest:

(1) One hundred percent, if the work is offered during the first five weeks of unemployment.

(2) Seventy-five percent, if the work is offered during the sixth through the twelfth week of unemployment.

(3) Seventy percent, if the work is offered during the thirteenth through the eighteenth week of unemployment.

(4) Sixty-five percent, if the work is offered after the eighteenth week of unemployment.

However, the provisions of this paragraph shall not require an individual to accept employment below the federal minimum wage.

The claimant refused an offer of available, suitable work, by revoking his acceptance of the position. This was based on hearsay from another driver who allegedly had an unfortunate experience with company equipment, but did not have any negative experiences himself. He did not discuss his concerns with the employer prior to revoking his acceptance. The work was suitable and his refusal was without good cause. He is disqualified.

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 claimant has received unemployment benefits to which he is not entitled. These must be recovered in accordance with the provisions of Iowa law.

DECISION:

The representative's decision of March 15, 2005, reference 01, is reversed. Carroll Mize is disqualified and benefits are withheld until he has earned ten times his weekly benefit amount, provided he is otherwise eligible. He is overpaid in the amount of \$310.00.

bgh/sc