

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

LENA M SHEIBLEY
1380 SE FLORENCE DR APT 36
WAUKEE IA 50263

IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Appeal Number: 05A-UI-04245-BT
OC: 03/02/05 R: 02
Claimant: Appellant (4)

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 96.4-3 - Able and Available for Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Lena Sheibley (claimant) appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated April 15, 2005, reference 05, which held that she was not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits effective March 27, 2005 because she was not available for work. After a hearing notice was mailed to the party's last-known address of record, a telephone hearing was held on May 12, 2005. The claimant participated in the hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: As of March 27, 2005, the claimant was pregnant and unable to work

due to her impending delivery. She gave birth on April 23, 2005 and claims she was able to return to work as of May 3, 2005.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The first issue in this case is whether the claimant is able and available for work.

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

871 IAC 24.22(1)a provides:

Benefits eligibility conditions. For an individual to be eligible to receive benefits the department must find that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. The individual bears the burden of establishing that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work.

(1) Able to work. An individual must be physically and mentally able to work in some gainful employment, not necessarily in the individual's customary occupation, but which is engaged in by others as a means of livelihood.

a. Illness, injury or pregnancy. Each case is decided upon an individual basis, recognizing that various work opportunities present different physical requirements. A statement from a medical practitioner is considered prima facie evidence of the physical ability of the individual to perform the work required. A pregnant individual must meet the same criteria for determining ableness as do all other individuals.

The claimant has the burden of proof in establishing his ability and availability for work. Davoren v. Iowa Employment Security Commission, 277 N.W.2d 602 (Iowa 1979). The evidence demonstrates the claimant was limited in the type of work she was able to do and the length of any employment prior to April 23, 2005, when she gave birth to her child. She claims that she is now able and available to work and has been since May 3, 2005. Consequently, the claimant does not meet the availability requirements of the law prior to week ending April 30, 2005, but is qualified after that date, provided she is otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The unemployment insurance decision dated April 15, 2005, reference 05, is modified in favor of the appellant. She is disqualified from receiving benefits prior to week ending April 30, 2005 but qualifies for benefits after that date, provided she is otherwise eligible.

sdb/s