

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

LETICIA RAMIREZ

Claimant

APPEAL NO. 07A-UI-06398-S2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

WAL-MART STORES INC

Employer

**OC: 07/16/06 R: 02
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.5-1 - Voluntary Quit

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Leticia Ramirez (claimant) appealed a representative's June 15, 2007 decision (reference 01) that concluded she was not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits because she had voluntarily quit employment with Wal-Mart Stores (employer). After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on July 17, 2007. The claimant participated personally. The employer did not provide a telephone number where it could be reached and, therefore, did not participate.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant voluntarily quit work without good cause attributable to the employer.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant was hired on June 30, 2003, as a full-time grocery stocker. The claimant quit work to move to another state because her former spouse was to be released from prison. He had threatened her with domestic violence. Continued work was available had the claimant not resigned on April 17, 2007.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow the administrative law judge concludes the claimant voluntarily quit work without good cause attributable to the employer.

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(2) provides:

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:

(2) The claimant moved to a different locality.

A voluntary leaving of employment requires an intention to terminate the employment relationship accompanied by an overt act of carrying out that intention. Local Lodge #1426 v. Wilson Trailer, 289 N.W.2d 608, 612 (Iowa 1980). The claimant's intention to voluntarily leave work was evidenced by her words and actions. She told the employer that she was leaving and quit work. When an employee quits work because she is moving to a different location, her leaving is without good cause attributable to the employer. The claimant left work because she was moving to a different locality. Her leaving was without good cause attributable to the employer. The claimant voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are denied.

DECISION:

The representative's June 15, 2007 decision (reference 01) is affirmed. The claimant voluntarily left work without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are withheld until she has worked in and has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times her weekly benefit amount, provided she is otherwise eligible.

Beth A. Scheetz
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/pjs