

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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**SANDRA BODE**  
Claimant

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**APPEAL NO. 19A-UI-09402-B2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 04/14/19**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.4-3 – Able and Available

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated November 22, 2019 reference 07, which held claimant not able and available for work. After due notice, a hearing was scheduled for and held on December 24, 2019. Claimant participated personally. Claimant's Exhibit A was admitted into evidence.

**ISSUE:**

The issue in this matter is whether claimant is able and available for work.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant submitted documentation that she was unable to work the week between November 6-11, 2019. Claimant did file for and receive unemployment benefits although she was suffering from diverticulitis and unable to actively search for employment.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

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".

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(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.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(35) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

(35) Where the claimant is not able to work and is under the care of a medical practitioner and has not been released as being able to work.

Inasmuch as the illness was not work-related and the treating physician had not released the claimant to return to work for the week in question, the claimant has not established the ability to work. Benefits are withheld for the one week of November 3-9, 2019. Benefits shall be allowed effective November 10, 2019 provided claimant meets all other eligibility requirements.

**DECISION:**

The decision of the representative dated November 22, 2019, reference 07 is affirmed. Claimant is not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits, effective November 3-9, 2019, but is eligible for benefits after that time, provided claimant meets all other eligibility requirements.

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Blair A. Bennett  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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