

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**JASON E ROONEY**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 13A-UI-11873-H2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**WORKSOURCE INC**  
Employer

**OC: 09/22/13**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.5(3)a – Work Refusal

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant filed an appeal from the October 14, 2013, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits. After due notice was issued a hearing was held on November 14, 2013. Claimant participated. Employer did participate through Heather Parsons, Account Manager.

**ISSUE:**

Did the claimant refuse a suitable offer of work?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant was offered an assignment in West Burlington working full time first shift at Heartland Packaging for ten dollars per hour. Ms. Parsons made the offer to the claimant on September 24. The claimant accepted and was to start on the morning of September 25. The claimant did not show up for the assignment because he did not have gas in his vehicle to get there. The only reason the claimant did not go to work was because he had no way to get there, all other aspects of the assignment were acceptable including the nature of the work, the pay and the hours of work.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes claimant did refuse a suitable offer of work.

Iowa Code § 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 offer was suitable as it was for work similar to what the claimant has previously performed and claimant did not have a good-cause reason for the refusal. Failure to have transportation or gas money for a job assignment is not good cause reason for refusing the assignment.

**DECISION:**

The October 14, 2013, reference 01, decision is affirmed. Claimant did refuse a suitable offer of work. Benefits are withheld until such time as the claimant works in and has been paid wages equal to ten times his weekly benefit amount, provided he is otherwise eligible.

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Teresa K. Hillary  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/pjs