

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant last worked for employer on July 5, 2005. Claimant went off work due to illness. Claimant kept the employer informed of his absences for a while. Claimant was then a no call absence for August 5, 2005, August 7, 2005, and again August 10, 2005. Claimant was taken out of the system for job abandonment on August 18, 2005. Claimant never did contact the employer after the separation.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue in this matter is whether the claimant quit for good cause attributable to the employer. The administrative law judge holds that the evidence has failed to establish that claimant voluntarily quit for good cause attributable to the employer when claimant terminated the employment relationship because of job abandonment. Claimant's complete failure to report in to work is strong evidence of abandonment. This is a quit without cause attributable to employer. Benefits withheld.

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.

The next issue concerns an overpayment of unemployment insurance benefits.

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 administrative law judge holds that claimant is overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$884.00 pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.3-7 because a decision has determined claimant is ineligible to receive benefits due to a voluntary quit without good cause attributable to employer.

Since claimant has been disqualified for the receipt of unemployment insurance benefits, the claim shall be locked until claimant has requalified or is otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated August 30, 2005, reference 01, is reversed. Unemployment insurance benefits are withheld until claimant has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times claimant's weekly benefit amount, provided claimant is otherwise eligible. Claimant is overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$884.00.

mdm\kjlw