

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

ROBERT D JOHNSTON
Claimant

APPEAL 17A-UI-02257-CL-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

OC: 02/12/17
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.6(1) – Filing Claims
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)a & h(1) & (2) – Backdating

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed a timely appeal from the February 23, 2017, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied the request to backdate the claim for benefits prior to February 12, 2017. After due notice was issued, a hearing was scheduled to be held by telephone conference call on March 22, 2017. Claimant participated.

ISSUE:

May the claim be backdated prior to February 12, 2017?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant filed a claim for benefits with an effective date of February 12, 2017, and desires to backdate the claim to February 5, 2017. Claimant delayed filing the claim because he worked reduced hours during the week ending February 11, 2017, and since he was paid by employer on a bi-weekly basis, he was waiting to see how many hours he would be assigned to work the next week. Claimant believed he had to have two weeks of work with reduced hours before he could file a claim for unemployment insurance benefits. Claimant's belief was not based on anything communicated to him by the employer or the agency. Claimant had filed an unemployment insurance claim in the past. During the week of February 12, 2017, claimant contacted the agency to ask about filing a claim for unemployment insurance benefits and was informed he should have filed his claim the previous week. Claimant then filed a claim and requested to backdate his claim.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request to backdate the claim is denied.

Iowa Code § 96.6(1) provides:

1. Filing. Claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such regulations as the department may prescribe.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1) and (2) provide:

Procedures for workers desiring to file a claim for benefits for unemployment insurance.

(1) § 96.6 of the employment security law of Iowa states that claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such rules as the department prescribes. The department of workforce development accordingly prescribes:

h. Effective starting date for the benefit year.

(1) Filing for benefits shall be effective as of Sunday of the current calendar week in which, subsequent to the individual's separation from work, an individual reports in person at a workforce development center and registers for work in accordance with paragraph "a" of this rule.

(2) The claim may be backdated prior to the first day of the calendar week in which the claimant does report and file a claim for the following reasons:

Backdated prior to the week in which the individual reported if the individual presents to the department sufficient grounds to justify or excuse the delay;

There is scheduled filing in the following week because of a mass layoff;

The failure of the department to recognize the expiration of the claimant's previous benefit year;

The individual is given incorrect advice by a workforce development employee;

The claimant filed an interstate claim against another state which has been determined as ineligible;

Failure on the part of the employer to comply with the provisions of the law or of these rules;

Coercion or intimidation exercised by the employer to prevent the prompt filing of such claim;

Failure of the department to discharge its responsibilities promptly in connection with such claim, the department shall extend the period during which such claim may be filed to a date which shall be not less than one week after the individual has received appropriate notice of potential rights to benefits, provided, that no such claim may be filed after the 13 weeks subsequent to the end of the benefit year during which the week of unemployment occurred. In the event continuous jurisdiction is exercised under the provisions of the law, the department may, in its discretion, extend the period during which claims, with respect to week of unemployment affected by such redetermination, may be filed.

Failure to investigate availability of unemployment insurance benefits when not related to misinformation is not a good reason to delay filing a claim for benefits.

DECISION:

The February 23, 2017, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant's request to backdate the claim to February 5, 2017, is denied, as are retroactive benefits for the same time period.

Christine A. Louis
Administrative Law Judge
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Decision Dated and Mailed

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