

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

ERIC BATCHER
Claimant

APPEAL 19A-UI-02872-CL-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 01/20/19
Claimant: Appellant (2R)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) - Able and Available
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e – Notice to Report
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(11) – Failure to Report

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the March 29, 2019, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits because of a failure to report as directed. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was set for April 25, 2019. Claimant participated.

ISSUE:

Did the claimant fail to report as directed or offer a good cause reason for failure to do so?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having examined the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: On March 21, 2019, Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) mailed a notice to claimant directing him to be available for a phone call on March 27, 2019, at 2:55 p.m. about his report that he refused an offer of work during the one week ending March 16, 2019. Claimant received the notice, but was at work and could not take the phone call. The IWD representative left claimant a voice message. Claimant attempted to return the phone call the next day, but was only able to leave a voice message.

Claimant declined an offer of work from Office Installation Services, 6250 NW Beaver Drive, Johnston, Iowa during the one week ending March 16, 2019.

The Benefits Bureau of IWD has not issued an initial decision on whether claimant declined a suitable offer of work with Office Installation Services.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant has established a good cause reason for having failed to report as directed.

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. 871-24.2(1)e provides:

e. In order to maintain continuing eligibility for benefits during any continuous period of unemployment, an individual shall report as directed to do so by an authorized representative of the department. If the individual has moved to another locality, the individual may register and report in person at a workforce development center at the time previously specified for the reporting.

(1) An individual who files a weekly continued claim will have the benefit payment automatically deposited weekly on a debit card specified by the department.

(2) The department retains the ultimate authority to choose the method of reporting and payment.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(11) provides:

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

(11) Failure to report as directed to workforce development in response to the notice which was mailed to the claimant will result in the claimant being deemed not to meet the availability requirements.

Since claimant was working at the time of the scheduled phone call and attempted to return the call in a timely manner, claimant has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed.

The Benefits Bureau of IWD has not issued an initial decision on whether claimant declined a suitable offer of work with Office Installation Services. That issue must be remanded for an initial investigation and decision.

DECISION:

The March 29, 2019, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed. Benefits are allowed effective March 24, 2019, provided he is otherwise eligible.

REMAND:

The issue of whether claimant declined a suitable offer of work from Office Installation Services is remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for an initial investigation and decision.

Christine A. Louis
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Decision Dated and Mailed

cal/scn