

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

DEKOTA J SPRAGUE
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 08A-UI-10864-LT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 08/24/08 R: 03
Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) - Recovery of Benefit Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant appealed the October 29, 2008, reference 06, decision that concluded the claimant was overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$1,895.00 for the five-week period ending June 14, 2008 as a result of a separation disqualification decision. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was held on November 18, 2008 by agreement of the parties after the initial hearing set for November 12 was not held because of erroneous information of requalification. Claimant participated and waived hearing notice on the appeal of this decision.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether claimant was overpaid benefits.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The overpayment issue in this case was created by the separation disqualification decision that has now been reversed.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The administrative law judge concludes claimant has not been overpaid benefits.

Iowa Code § 96.3-7, as amended in 2008, provides:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits.

a. 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.

b. (1) 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. However, provided the benefits were not received as the result of fraud or willful misrepresentation by the individual, benefits shall not be recovered from an individual if the employer did not participate in the initial determination to award benefits pursuant to section 96.6, subsection 2, and an overpayment occurred because of a subsequent reversal on appeal regarding the issue of the individual's separation from employment. The employer shall not be charged with the benefits.

(2) An accounting firm, agent, unemployment insurance accounting firm, or other entity that represents an employer in unemployment claim matters and demonstrates a continuous pattern of failing to participate in the initial determinations to award benefits, as determined and defined by rule by the department, shall be denied permission by the department to represent any employers in unemployment insurance matters. This subparagraph does not apply to attorneys or counselors admitted to practice in the courts of this state pursuant to section 602.10101.

The administrative law judge concludes that the claimant has not been overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$1,895.00 pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.3(7) as the separation disqualification decision that created the overpayment decision has now been reversed.

DECISION:

The October 29, 2008, reference 06, decision is reversed. The claimant has not been overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$1,895.00.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/css