

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

ROBERT L KUIPER
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 10A-UI-03333-H2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 01-03-10
Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able and Available
871 IAC 24.2(1)e – Failure to Report

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the February 26, 2010, reference 01, decision that denied benefits. After due notice was issued, a hearing was scheduled to be held on April 24, 2010. The claimant did not participate because he did not call in to provide a telephone number where he could be reached for the hearing. The administrative law judge reviewed the claimant's appeal letter and considered it in making the decision.

ISSUE:

Did the claimant establish good cause for failing to report as directed?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant was mailed a notice to report to his local workforce office on either February 2, 2010 or February 23, 2010 to participate in reemployment services. On February 2 the claimant was unable to attend due to his wife's injury which required he care for her. On February 23 the claimant was attending a job interview and was unable to attend reemployment services training. The claimant tried to call his local office to explain he would not be able to attend but was kept on hold for over twenty minutes due to high call volumes. He was not able to get through to anyone at the local office to explain that he could not attend on the assigned dates.

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 § 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".

871 IAC 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.

The method of reporting and the payment of benefits, provided the individual is otherwise eligible, shall be on a biweekly basis by mail if the claimant files a Form 60-0151.

The method of reporting shall be weekly if a voice response continued claim is filed, unless otherwise directed by an authorized representative of the department. An individual who files a voice response continued claim will have the benefit payment automatically deposited weekly in the individual's financial institution's account or be paid by the mailing of a warrant on a biweekly basis.

In order for an individual to receive payment by direct deposit, the individual must provide the department with the appropriate bank routing code number and a checking or savings account number.

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

871 IAC 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.

The claimant was not able to get through to his local office on the telephone and he had good cause reasons for failing to attend each day assigned to him for reemployment services. Since claimant has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed, benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The February 26, 2010, reference 01, decision is reversed. The claimant has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed. Benefits are allowed effective February 21, 2010, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

Teresa K. Hillary
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/pjs