

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Section  
1000 East Grand—Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
68-0157 (7-97) – 3091078 - EI

MERCEDES TAMURA  
303 W JEFFERSON  
WASHINGTON IA 52353

TYSON FRESH MEATS INC  
c/o TALX UCM SERVICES  
PO BOX 283  
ST LOUIS MO 63166-0283

Appeal Number: 06A-UI-00236-H2T  
OC: 11-06-05 R: 03  
Claimant: Respondent (1)

**This Decision Shall Become Final**, unless within fifteen (15) days from the date below, you or any interested party appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by submitting either a signed letter or a signed written Notice of Appeal, directly to the **Employment Appeal Board, 4th Floor—Lucas Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319**.

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday.

STATE CLEARLY

1. The name, address and social security number of the claimant.
2. A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
3. That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
4. The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in this appeal or you may obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds. It is important that you file your claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

---

(Administrative Law Judge)

---

(Decision Dated & Mailed)

Section 96.5-2-a – Discharge/Misconduct  
871 IAC 24.32(7) – Absenteeism

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer filed a timely appeal from the December 30, 2005, reference 03, decision that allowed benefits. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held on January 26, 2006. The claimant did participate through the interpretation of Ike Rocha. The employer did participate through Chris Travis, Employment Manager.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant was employed as a production laborer on the cut floor full time beginning November 15, 1990 through November 30, 2005, when she was discharged from employment

due to a final incidents of absenteeism on November 21 and November 28, when she called in to report her absence related to illness. The claimant was called into the office by her Supervisor and told that her points had exceeded those allowable under the employer's policy and that she was being discharged. The claimant did not voluntarily quit, she was discharged.

#### REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant was discharged from employment for no disqualifying reason.

Iowa Code section 96.5-2-a provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

2. Discharge for misconduct. If the department finds that the individual has been discharged for misconduct in connection with the individual's employment:

a. The individual shall be disqualified for benefits until the individual has worked in and has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times the individual's weekly benefit amount, provided the individual is otherwise eligible.

871 IAC 24.32(7) provides:

(7) Excessive unexcused absenteeism. Excessive unexcused absenteeism is an intentional disregard of the duty owed by the claimant to the employer and shall be considered misconduct except for illness or other reasonable grounds for which the employee was absent and that were properly reported to the employer.

Excessive absences are not considered misconduct unless unexcused. Absences due to properly reported illness cannot constitute job misconduct since they are not volitional. Cosper v. Iowa Department of Job Service, 321 N.W.2d 6 (Iowa 1982). The employer's allegation that the claimant quit for no reason at all is not credible. The claimant's testimony is more persuasive that she was told she was discharged because of her attendance points. The last two reported absences on behalf of the claimant were due to properly reported illness.

Because the final absence for which she was discharged was related to properly reported illness, no final or current incident of unexcused absenteeism has been established and no disqualification is imposed. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

#### DECISION:

The December 30, 2005, reference 03, decision is affirmed. The claimant was discharged from employment for no disqualifying reason. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

tkh/kjw