

**IN THE IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

BRIAN MCDAID
Claimant

QPS EMPLOYMENT GROUP INC
Employer

APPEAL 23A-UI-12214-S2-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**OC: 12/10/23
Claimant: Appellant (3)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work
Iowa Code § 96.1A(37) – Total and Partial Unemployment
Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(2) – Same Base Period Employment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the December 28, 2023, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits based on a determination that claimant was working enough hours to be considered employed. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on January 18, 2023. Claimant Brian McDaid participated. Employer QPS Employment Group, Inc. participated through unemployment specialist Jessica Segner. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative file.

ISSUES:

Is the claimant totally, partially, or temporarily unemployed?
Was the claimant able to and available for work effective December 10, 2023?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant began working for employer, a temporary staffing agency, on July 26, 2021. On November 9, 2023, claimant was assigned to work full time as a lunch runner at North Iowa Area Community College. He worked 40 hours each week and earned \$13.48 per hour.

On December 15, 2023, the community college closed down for the winter break. There was no work available for claimant between December 15, 2023, and January 10, 2024.

Claimant filed an initial claim for unemployment benefits effective December 10, 2023. Claimant's weekly benefit amount is \$582.00. Claimant worked fewer hours than normal during the week ending December 16, 2023, because the school closed and there was no work available beginning December 15, 2023. Employer had work available for claimant effective January 10, 2024, but claimant's phone was not working so he was not aware he should return then. He returned to work on January 16, 2023.

Claimant has not filed any weekly claims since filing his claim for benefits effective December 10, 2023. While the administrative record shows a “dummy week” appearing for the week ending December 16, 2023, the KCCO screen that logs the claimant’s recorded weekly claims does not show the claimant filed a claim for that week or any other subsequent week.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes as follows:

Iowa Code § 96.1A(37) provides:

"Total and partial unemployment".

a. An individual shall be deemed "totally unemployed" in any week with respect to which no wages are payable to the individual and during which the individual performs no services.

b. An individual shall be deemed partially unemployed in any week in which either of the following apply:

(1) While employed at the individual's then regular job, the individual works less than the regular full-time week and in which the individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

(2) The individual, having been separated from the individual's regular job, earns at odd jobs less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

c. An individual shall be deemed temporarily unemployed if for a period, verified by the department, not to exceed four consecutive weeks, the individual is unemployed due to a plant shutdown, vacation, inventory, lack of work or emergency from the individual's regular job or trade in which the individual worked full-time and will again work full-time, if the individual's employment, although temporarily suspended, has not been terminated.

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".

Iowa Administrative Code rule 871-24.2.(1)(g) provides as follows:

(g). No continued claim for benefits shall be allowed until the individual claiming benefits has completed a continued claim or claimed benefits as otherwise directed by the department.

(1) The weekly continued claim shall be transmitted not earlier than 8 a.m. on the Sunday following the Saturday of the weekly reporting period and, unless reasonable cause can be shown for the delay, not later than close of business on Friday following the weekly reporting period.

Iowa Code section 96.6(1) provides:

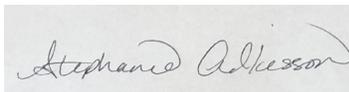
1. Filing. Claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such regulations as the department may prescribe.

In order to be eligible for weekly benefits, the claimant must file an online web application continued claim. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)g. The law no longer allows for an administrative law judge to grant retroactive benefits provided the claimant demonstrates good cause. Generally, courts and administrative tribunals do not decide issues when the underlying controversy is moot. *Rhiner v. State*, 703 N.W.2d 174, 176 (Iowa 2005). "A case is moot if it no longer presents a justiciable controversy because the issues involved are academic or nonexistent." *Iowa Bankers Ass'n v. Iowa Credit Union Dept*, 335 N.W.2d 439, 442 (Iowa 1983).

In this case, claimant did not file any weekly continued claim for benefits between December 10, 2023, and January 6, 2024. As there is no longer any ability under Iowa law to receive retroactive benefits, claimant has missed his opportunity to seek benefits for that period. Therefore, there is no live case or controversy before the Appeals Bureau. It does not matter whether claimant was available or whether he was totally, partially, or temporarily unemployed between December 10, 2023, and January 6, 2024, because he did not seek benefits during that period. The issue of whether he was totally, partially, or temporarily unemployed effective December 10, 2023, is moot.

DECISION:

The December 28, 2023, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is modified in favor of the respondent. The issue of whether the claimant was able to and available or totally, partially, or temporarily unemployed between December 10, 2023, and January 6, 2024, is moot.



Stephanie Adkisson
Administrative Law Judge

January 23, 2024
Decision Dated and Mailed

APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Iowa Employment Appeal Board
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Fax: (515)281-7191
Online: eab.iowa.gov**

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.

AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL 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.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> or by contacting the District Court Clerk of Court <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Note to Parties: YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or 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.

Note to Claimant: It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

SERVICE INFORMATION:

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN. Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Iowa Employment Appeal Board
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Fax: (515)281-7191
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal.

UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que se encuentra en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> o comunicándose con el Tribunal de Distrito Secretario del tribunal <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Nota para las partes: USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

Nota para el reclamante: es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.