

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

HEIDI L VOSS HOWARD
Claimant

APPEAL 20A-UI-03052-DB-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 03/29/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.5(13) – Disqualification due to Outstanding Fraud Overpayment
Iowa Code § 96.16(4) – Offenses and Misrepresentation

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant/appellant, Heidi L. Voss Howard, filed a timely appeal from the April 3, 2020 (reference 01) Iowa Workforce Development (“IWD”) unemployment insurance decision which concluded the claimant was ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits due to an outstanding fraud overpayment balance. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on May 11, 2020. The claimant participated personally. IWD participated through in writing. Claimant’s Exhibits 1 and 2 were admitted. IWD Exhibits A through C were admitted. The administrative law judge took official notice of the claimant’s unemployment insurance benefits records.

ISSUE:

Is the claimant ineligible for benefits due to an unpaid fraud overpayment balance?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of November 16, 2014. An investigatory audit was conducted regarding the claimant’s failure to report all wages while concurrently filed weekly continued claims for benefits. Consequently, a decision was issued on July 8, 2016 which found that the claimant was overpaid benefits of \$2,611.00, plus a 15% penalty due to misrepresentation when she failed to report earnings with Casey’s Marketing Company between February 1, 2015 and November 14, 2015. See Exhibit B. The claimant’s administrative records establish that she did not appeal the decision and it became final. The claimant and IWD entered into a stipulation regarding her debt, which was approved by the Court in claimant’s bankruptcy case filing, Case No. 19-02420-lmj7. See Exhibit 1. The parties stipulated that the balance owed to IWD was \$2,611.00. See Exhibit 1. The debt was determined to be non-dischargeable. See Exhibit 1. The claimant then established a new original claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of March 29, 2020. To date, the claimant has failed to pay the outstanding overpayment amount owed. See Exhibit C.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant is ineligible for benefits due to an unpaid fraud overpayment balance.

Iowa Code section 96.5(13) provides:

Overpayment resulting in disqualification. If the department finds that an individual has received benefits by reason of misrepresentation pursuant to section 96.16, such individual shall be disqualified for benefits until the balance of the benefits received by the individual due to misrepresentation, including all penalties, interest, and lien fees, is paid in full.

Iowa Code section 96.16(4)(a) provides:

4. Misrepresentation.

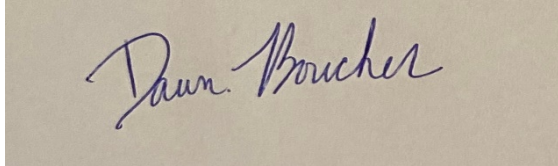
a. An individual who, by reason of the nondisclosure or misrepresentation by the individual or by another of a material fact, has received any sum as benefits under this chapter while any conditions for the receipt of benefits imposed by this chapter were not fulfilled in the individual's case, or while the individual was disqualified from receiving benefits, shall, be liable to repay to the department for the unemployment compensation fund, a sum equal to the amount so received by the individual. If the department seeks to recover the amount of the benefits by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to that amount, the department may file a lien with the county recorder in favor of the state on the individual's property and rights to property, whether real or personal. The amount of the lien shall be collected in a manner similar to the provisions for the collection of past-due contributions in section 96.14, subsection 3.

The claimant owes an overpayment balance due to a decision issued on July 8, 2016 which found that the claimant was overpaid benefits and engaged in misrepresentation pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.16(4), and further, a stipulation that she entered into during her bankruptcy case. Because this unpaid fraud overpayment balance remains unpaid, the claimant is not eligible for benefits until the total is paid in full, and the claimant is otherwise eligible. See Iowa Code § 96.5(13).

Note to Claimant: If this decision determines you are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits and you disagree with this decision, you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision. Individuals who do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits, but who are currently unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19 may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility under the program.** Additional information on how to apply for PUA can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>.

DECISION:

The April 3, 2020 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant is ineligible for benefits at this time due to an unpaid fraud overpayment balance. Benefits are withheld until the claimant has paid the unpaid fraud overpayment balance owed, and provided claimant is otherwise eligible.



Dawn Boucher
Administrative Law Judge

May 12, 2020
Decision Dated and Mailed

db/scn