

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

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**PETER S COTANT**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 18A-UI-03660-DL-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 01/07/18  
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

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Iowa Code § 96.4(3) - Able and Available  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e – Notice to Report  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(11) – Failure to Report

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the March 16, 2018, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that found claimant not being able to or available for work the week-ending March 3, 2018, and denied benefits effective March 11, 2018, because of a failure to report as directed. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was set for April 12, 2018. Claimant registered but no hearing was held as there was sufficient evidence in the appeal letter and administrative record to resolve the matter without testimony.

**ISSUES:**

Is the claimant able to work and available for work the week-ending March 3, 2018?  
Did the claimant fail to report as directed or offer a good cause reason for failure to do so?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having heard the testimony and having examined the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: A notice was mailed to the claimant about his availability for work the week-ending March 3, 2018. He did not report because he had a medical appointment at the time. He filed a weekly continued claim for the week-ending March 3, 2018, and made a keystroke error indicating he was not available for work.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the underlying issue was the result of a reporting error, and the claimant has established a good cause reason for having failed to report as directed.

Iowa Code section 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 Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(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 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 account at a financial institution or be paid by the mailing of a warrant on a biweekly basis.

...

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

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(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.

Since he was at a medical appointment during the reporting time, claimant has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed, and because the weekly claim entry indicating he was not available for work was made in error, claimant is considered available for work and benefits are allowed.

#### **DECISION:**

The March 16, 2018, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed. The underlying issue was the result of a reporting error. Benefits are allowed for the week-ending March 3, 2018, and effective March 11, 2018, provided he is otherwise eligible.

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Dévon M. Lewis  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/rvs