

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

GAVIN WHITMORE
Claimant

APPEAL NO: 09A-UI-01381-BT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

L A LEASING INC/SEDONA STAFFING
Employer

OC: 07/27/08 R: 04
Claimant: Respondent (2/R)

Section 96.5-1-j - Voluntary Quit of Temporary Employment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

L A Leasing, Inc./Sedona Staffing (employer) appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated January 22, 2009, reference 04, which held that Gavin Whitmore (claimant) was eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on February 17, 2009. The claimant participated in the hearing. The employer participated through Colleen McGuinty, Unemployment Benefits Administrator and Brenda Lampe, Account Manager. Based on the evidence, the arguments of the parties, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant's failure to contact the temporary employment agency within three working days after the completion of his assignment, when notified of this requirement at the time of hire, disqualifies him from receiving unemployment insurance benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant was initially employed as a temporary laborer from May 31, 2006 through December 2006. He started back with the employer in May 2008 and worked through October 29, 2008 when he stopped showing up for work due to transportation problems. He was advised at the time of hire he was required to check in for additional work at the completion of an assignment and that failure to do so could result in a loss of unemployment insurance benefits. The claimant signed the notification document which was separate than the contract of employment and was given a copy of the document. He did not notify the employer he would not continue his assignment on October 29, 2008 and the customer had to request a replacement. The claimant next checked in for work on November 10, 2008 but no work was available. The employer found work for him on December 15, 2008 but he called in early that morning and stated he could not work because he was sick. The employer's next record of him contacting the office for additional work was February 16, 2009.

The claimant filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits effective July 27, 2008 and has received benefits after the separation from employment.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue in this case is whether the reasons for the claimant's separation from employment qualify him to receive unemployment insurance benefits. The claimant is not qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits if he voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer or if the employer discharged him for work-connected misconduct. Iowa Code §§ 96.5-1 and 96.5-2-a. Temporary employment agencies are governed by Iowa Code § 96.5-1-j, which places specific restrictions on both the employer and the employee with regard to qualification for unemployment insurance benefits after a voluntary separation.

Iowa Code § 96.5-1-j provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

1. Voluntary quitting. If the individual has left work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the individual's employer, if so found by the department, but the individual shall not be disqualified if the department finds that:

j. The individual is a temporary employee of a temporary employment firm who notifies the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment and who seeks reassignment. Failure of the individual to notify the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment within three working days of the completion of each employment assignment under a contract of hire shall be deemed a voluntary quit unless the individual was not advised in writing of the duty to notify the temporary employment firm upon completion of an employment assignment or the individual had good cause for not contacting the temporary employment firm within three working days and notified the firm at the first reasonable opportunity thereafter.

To show that the employee was advised in writing of the notification requirement of this paragraph, the temporary employment firm shall advise the temporary employee by requiring the temporary employee, at the time of employment with the temporary employment firm, to read and sign a document that provides a clear and concise explanation of the notification requirement and the consequences of a failure to notify. The document shall be separate from any contract of employment and a copy of the signed document shall be provided to the temporary employee.

For the purposes of this paragraph:

(1) "Temporary employee" means an individual who is employed by a temporary employment firm to provide services to clients to supplement their work force during absences, seasonal workloads, temporary skill or labor market shortages, and for special assignments and projects.

(2) "Temporary employment firm" means a person engaged in the business of employing temporary employees.

The employer has established it acted in compliance with Iowa Code § 96.5-1-j. The evidence indicates the claimant knew or should have known he was required to contact the employer after the end of an assignment so the employer could assign him to another job to which he had

transportation. The claimant did not contact the employer until almost two weeks after he stopped working and did not satisfy the requirements of Iowa Code § 96.5-1-j. Benefits are therefore denied.

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) provides that benefits must be recovered from a claimant who receives benefits and is later determined to be ineligible for benefits, even though the claimant acted in good faith and was not otherwise at fault. The overpayment recovery law was updated in 2008. See Iowa Code § 96.3(7)(b). Under the revised law, a claimant will not be required to repay an overpayment of benefits if all of the following factors are met. First, the prior award of benefits must have been made in connection with a decision regarding the claimant's separation from a particular employment. Second, the claimant must not have engaged in fraud or willful misrepresentation to obtain the benefits or in connection with the Agency's initial decision to award benefits. Third, the employer must not have participated at the initial fact-finding proceeding that resulted in the initial decision to award benefits. If Workforce Development determines there has been an overpayment of benefits, the employer will not be charged for the benefits, regardless of whether the claimant is required to repay the benefits.

Because the claimant has been deemed ineligible for benefits, any benefits the claimant has received could constitute an overpayment. Accordingly, the administrative law judge will remand the matter to the Claims Division for determination of whether there has been an overpayment, the amount of the overpayment, and whether the claimant will have to repay the benefits.

DECISION:

The unemployment insurance decision dated January 22, 2009, reference 04, is reversed. The claimant voluntarily left work without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are withheld until he has worked in and has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times his weekly benefit amount, provided he is otherwise eligible. The matter is remanded to the Claims Section for investigation and determination of the overpayment issue.

Susan D. Ackerman
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

sda/css