

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

JUDY K KINION
1406 COUNTY RD E-29 IOWA
MONMOUTH IA 52309

DMVH TRANSPORTATION INC
PO BOX 459
WHEATLAND IA 52777

Appeal Number: 04A-UI-06619-S2T
OC: 05/16/04 R: 04
Claimant: Respondent (2)

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 96.5-1 – Voluntary Quit
Section 96.3-7 – Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

D.M.V.H. Transportation (employer) appealed a representative's June 3, 2004 decision (reference 01) that concluded Judy Kinion (claimant) voluntarily quit due to a change in the contract for hire. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on July 12, 2004. The claimant participated personally. The employer participated by Brenda Kay, Bookkeeper.

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 hired in July 2003, as a full-time team driver and was paid \$.40 per mile. Single drivers drove fewer miles, stayed mostly in the Midwest and were paid \$.32 per mile. In April 2004, the claimant spoke to the employer's client about wanting to drive near the Midwest because of the claimant's family. The claimant was unaware that drivers who stayed in the Midwest would receive less mileage pay because the claimant was not hired as a driver who stayed in the Midwest. On May 15, 2004, the employer sent the claimant a letter which indicated that drivers with fewer miles are paid less per mile. The claimant attempted to speak with the owner on May 18, 2004. The owner told the claimant to accept the terms or quit. The claimant offered a letter of resignation on May 15, 2004.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue is whether the claimant voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer. For the following reasons the administrative law judge concludes she did.

Iowa Code Section 96.5-1 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.

871 IAC 24.26(1) provides:

Voluntary quit with good cause attributable to the employer and separations not considered to be voluntary quits. The following are reasons for a claimant leaving employment with good cause attributable to the employer:

- (1) A change in the contract of hire. An employer's willful breach of contract of hire shall not be a disqualifiable issue. This would include any change that would jeopardize the worker's safety, health or morals. The change of contract of hire must be substantial in nature and could involve changes in working hours, shifts, remuneration, location of employment, drastic modification in type of work, etc. Minor changes in a worker's routine on the job would not constitute a change of contract of hire.

A voluntary leaving of employment requires an intention to terminate the employment relationship accompanied by an overt act of carrying out that intention. Local Lodge #1426 v. Wilson Trailer, 289 N.W.2d 608, 612 (Iowa 1980). The claimant's intention to voluntarily leave work was evidenced by his words and actions. He told the employer that he was leaving and quit work. A substantial pay reduction creates good cause attributable to the employer for a resignation. Dehmel v. Employment Appeal Board, 433 N.W.2d 700 (Iowa 1988). An employee must give prior notice to the employer before quitting due to a change in the contract of hire. Cobb v. Employment Appeal Board, 506 N.W.2d 445 (Iowa 1993). In this case the employer did not change the claimant's contract for hire, the claimant did. The claimant wished to change the contract without realizing it would result in a mileage pay reduction. There was no evidence presented of good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are denied.

Iowa Code Section 96.3-7 provides:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits. If an individual receives benefits for which the individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible, even though the individual acts in good faith and is not otherwise at fault, the benefits shall be recovered. The department in its discretion may recover the overpayment of benefits either by having a sum equal to the overpayment deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual or by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to the overpayment.

If the department determines that an overpayment has been made, the charge for the overpayment against the employer's account shall be removed and the account shall be credited with an amount equal to the overpayment from the unemployment compensation trust fund and this credit shall include both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

The claimant has received benefits in the amount of \$1,995.00 since filing her claim herein. Pursuant to this decision, those benefits now constitute an overpayment which must be repaid.

DECISION:

The representative's June 3, 2004 decision (reference 01) is reversed. The claimant voluntarily left work without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are withheld until she has worked in and has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times her weekly benefit amount, provided she is otherwise eligible. The claimant is overpaid benefits in the amount of \$1,995.00.

bas/b