

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

DEBORAH J BASTEN
Claimant

APPEAL 16A-UI-07680-DGT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

HILLCREST FAMILY SERVICES
Employer

OC: 06/05/16
Claimant: Respondent (2-R)

Iowa Code § 96.4(5) – Reasonable Assurance

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer filed a timely appeal from the June 30, 2016, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that allowed benefits. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was held on August 1, 2016. Claimant participated and was represented by John Rosenthal, Union Steward. Employer participated through Shannon Hagensten, Director of Human Resources. Employer's Exhibits 1 through 3 were admitted into evidence.

ISSUE:

Does the claimant have reasonable assurance of continued employment in the next school term or year?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant was employed as a teacher associate for the employer under a 28E agreement with Dubuque Community School District during the 2015 – 2016, school year. Claimant has no other regular non-educational institution employment wage credits in the base period. Employer was able to secure funding for the next academic year, and notified the claimant in writing on June 6, 2016 that she was employed at Hillcrest school in Dubuque, Iowa for the 2016 – 2017 academic year.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant does have reasonable assurance of returning to work the following academic term or year.

Public Law 94-566 provides:

(c) An individual who performs services for an educational institution or agency in a capacity (other than an instructional, research, or principal administrative capacity) shall

not be eligible to receive a payment of assistance or a waiting period credit with respect to any week commencing during a period between two successive academic years or terms if:

- (1) Such individual performed such services for any educational institution or agency in the first of such academic years or terms; and
- (2) There is a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform services for any educational institution or agency in any capacity (other than an instructional, research, or principal administrative capacity) in the second of such academic years or terms.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.51(6) provides:

School definitions.

(6) Reasonable assurance, as applicable to an employee of an educational institution, means a written, verbal, or implied agreement that the employee will perform services in the same or similar capacity, which is not substantially less in economic terms and conditions, during the ensuing academic year or term. It need not be a formal written contract. To constitute a reasonable assurance of reemployment for the ensuing academic year or term, an individual must be notified of such reemployment.

Iowa Code § 96.4-(5)-a provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

5. Benefits based on service in employment in a nonprofit organization or government entity, defined in section 96.19, subsection 18, are payable in the same amount, on the same terms and subject to the same conditions as compensation payable on the same basis of other service subject to this chapter, except that:

a. Benefits based on service in an instructional, research, or principal administrative capacity in an educational institution including service in or provided to or on behalf of an educational institution while in the employ of an educational service agency, a government entity, or a nonprofit organization shall not be paid to an individual for any week of unemployment which begins during the period between two successive academic years or during a similar period between two regular terms, whether or not successive, or during a period of paid sabbatical leave provided for in the individual's contract, if the individual has a contract or reasonable assurance that the individual will perform services in any such capacity for any educational institution for both such academic years or both such terms.

Iowa Code § 96.4(5)b provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

5. Benefits based on service in employment in a nonprofit organization or government entity, defined in section 96.19, subsection 18, are payable in the same amount, on the

same terms and subject to the same conditions as compensation payable on the same basis of other service subject to this chapter, except that:

b. Benefits based on service in any other capacity for an educational institution including service in or provided to or on behalf of an educational institution while in the employ of an educational service agency, a government entity, or a nonprofit organization, shall not be paid to an individual for any week of unemployment which begins during the period between two successive academic years or terms, if the individual performs the services in the first of such academic years or terms and has reasonable assurance that the individual will perform services for the second of such academic years or terms. If benefits are denied to an individual for any week as a result of this paragraph and the individual is not offered an opportunity to perform the services for an educational institution for the second of such academic years or terms, the individual is entitled to retroactive payments of benefits for each week for which the individual filed a timely claim for benefits and for which benefits were denied solely by reason of this paragraph.

Iowa Code § 96.4(5)c provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

5. Benefits based on service in employment in a nonprofit organization or government entity, defined in section 96.19, subsection 18, are payable in the same amount, on the same terms and subject to the same conditions as compensation payable on the same basis of other service subject to this chapter, except that:

c. With respect to services for an educational institution in any capacity under paragraph "a" or "b", benefits shall not be paid to an individual for any week of unemployment which begins during an established and customary vacation period or holiday recess if the individual performs the services in the period immediately before such vacation period or holiday recess, and the individual has reasonable assurance that the individual will perform the services in the period immediately following such vacation period or holiday recess.

Iowa Code § 96.4(5)d provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

5. Benefits based on service in employment in a nonprofit organization or government entity, defined in section 96.19, subsection 18, are payable in the same amount, on the same terms and subject to the same conditions as compensation payable on the same basis of other service subject to this chapter, except that:

d. For purposes of this subsection, "educational service agency" means a governmental agency or government entity which is established and operated exclusively for the purpose of providing educational services to one or more educational institutions.

Iowa Code § 96.5 (9) provides:

Athletes - disqualified. Services performed by an individual, substantially all of which consist of participating in sports or athletic events or training or preparing to so participate, for any week which commences during the period between two successive sport seasons or similar periods, if such individual performs such services in the first of such seasons or similar periods and there is a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services in the later of such season or similar periods.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.52(6) provides:

Benefits which are denied to an individual that are based on services performed in an educational institution for periods between academic years or terms shall cause the denial of the use of such wage credits. However, if sufficient nonschool wage credits remain on the claim to qualify under Iowa Code § 96.4(4), the remaining wage credits may be used for benefit payments, if the individual is otherwise eligible.

Where a claimant did not work over the summer for a community college which held a summer session, the Court still denied benefits because of the “summer vacation.” *Merged Area VII v. Iowa Dep’t of Job Serv.*, 367 N.W.2d 272, 274, 275 (Iowa Ct. App. 1985)

In this case, the claimant did not have other non-educational institution wage credits in the base period. The claimant does have reasonable assurance of continued employment for the 2016 – 2017, school year. Accordingly, benefits are denied.

DECISION:

The June 30, 2016, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant does have reasonable assurance of returning to work the following academic year or term. Benefits are denied.

REMAND:

The claimant may have received benefits she is not entitled to receive. The overpayment issue is remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for an initial investigation and determination.

Duane L. Golden
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dlg/pjs