

**IN THE IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

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**FEDERICO VARGAS**  
Claimant

**REMEDY INTELLIGENT STAFFING INC**  
Employer

**APPEAL 24A-UI-00310-SN-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 12/17/23  
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

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Iowa Code section 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quitting  
Iowa Code § 96.5(1)j – Voluntary Quitting – Temporary Employment

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant, Federico Vargas, filed an appeal from the January 3, 2024, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits based upon the conclusion she quit because she did not contact her temporary staffing firm employer within three working days of the end of the assignment. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on January 25, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. The claimant participated. The employer participated through Branch Manager Dawn Starr.

The employer's proposed exhibits were not accepted because they were not received before the hearing date. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.15.

**ISSUE:**

Did the claimant quit by not reporting for an additional work assignment within three business days of the end of the last assignment?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having heard the testimony and having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

The claimant was last assigned at Motion Industries as a field associate from August 14, 2023, to October 16, 2023. Upon hire, the claimant did not receive a copy of the assignment policy.

On October 13, 2023, the claimant had a verbal disagreement with a trainer. As the claimant was going to the bathroom, the trainer asked, "Where the fuck are you going?"

On October 16, 2023, the claimant reported this behavior to the supervisor. The claimant gave his badge and his tools to the supervisor before leaving the area. The claimant also asked to leave the worksite so he could talk to his employer, Remedy Intelligent Staffing Inc. The claimant spoke with an agent there. The agent said the claimant should just return and make amends. The claimant said he did not want to work with the trainer again without receiving an

apology first. The agent told the claimant she would see what she could do. She promised he would receive a call from Motion Industries human resources department by October 20, 2023.

On October 20, 2023, the claimant waited for the human resources department to make the call. He did not receive the call. That same day, the employer reasoned that the claimant had not requested a reassignment within three working days and terminated his employment.

### **REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The administrative law judge concludes the claimant did not quit either through his own words or through failing to contact the employer within three working days of the end of the assignment. Benefits are granted, provided he is otherwise eligible.

The decision in this case rests, at least in part, on the credibility of the witnesses. It is the duty of the administrative law judge as the trier of fact in this case, to determine the credibility of witnesses, weigh the evidence and decide the facts in issue. *Arndt v. City of LeClaire*, 728 N.W.2d 389, 394-395 (Iowa 2007). The administrative law judge may believe all, part or none of any witness's testimony. *State v. Holtz*, 548 N.W.2d 162, 163 (Iowa App. 1996). In assessing the credibility of witnesses, the administrative law judge should consider the evidence using his or her own observations, common sense and experience. *Id.* In determining the facts, and deciding what testimony to believe, the fact finder may consider the following factors: whether the testimony is reasonable and consistent with other believable evidence; whether a witness has made inconsistent statements; the witness's appearance, conduct, age, intelligence, memory and knowledge of the facts; and the witness's interest in the trial, their motive, candor, bias and prejudice. *Id.*

After assessing the credibility of the witnesses who testified during the hearing, reviewing the exhibits submitted by the parties, considering the applicable factors listed above, and using his own common sense and experience, the administrative law judge finds the claimant's version of events to be more credible than the employer's recollection of those events.

The administrative law judge finds the employer's narrative is somewhat in tension that it both claims that the claimant quit on October 16, 2023, but also maintains that there were still efforts for him to be retained past that point. He also finds the level of detail and context in the claimant's description of events to be more consistent.

### **Did the claimant quit?**

The claimant has the burden of proving that the voluntary leaving was for good cause attributable to the employer. Iowa Code § 96.6(2). "Good cause" for leaving employment must be that which is reasonable to the average person, not the overly sensitive individual or the claimant in particular. *Uniweld Products v. Indus. Relations Comm'n*, 277 So.2d 827 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1973). 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 employer emphasizes the claimant leaving his badge and tools with the supervisor with the site employer to signal his intent. The administrative law judge is not persuaded because it is acknowledged that the claimant did not tell the supervisor at that moment that he was quitting. Rather he told him that he was going to leave and report the behavior to his employer in the hopes that the two employers could find a resolution for him.

Similarly with the agent of the employer, the claimant did not quit. The administrative law judge finds the claimant credible on the notion that to the extent he said he would not return it was conditioned. The claimant was willing to return with some resolution like an apology or being placed away from the trainer. As Ms. Starr recognized on the record, they were still trying to work it out even after he spoke with the agent on October 16, 2023. With this context in mind, the administrative law judge finds the claimant did not quit.

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. (1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) For the purposes of this lettered paragraph:

(a) "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.

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

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.26(19) 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:

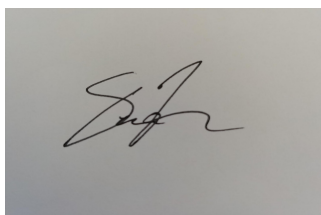
(19) The claimant was employed on a temporary basis for assignment to spot jobs or casual labor work and fulfilled the contract of hire when each of the jobs was completed. An election not to report for a new assignment to work shall not be construed as a voluntary leaving of employment. The issue of a refusal of an offer of suitable work shall be adjudicated when an offer of work is made by the former employer. The provisions of Iowa Code § 96.5(3) and rule 24.24(96) are controlling in the determination of suitability of work. However, this subrule shall not apply to substitute school employees who are subject to the provisions of Iowa Code § 96.4(5) which denies benefits that are based on service in an educational institution when the individual declines or refuses to accept a new contract or reasonable assurance of continued employment status. Under this circumstance, the substitute school employee shall be considered to have voluntarily quit employment.

The purpose of the statute is to provide notice to the temporary agency employer that the claimant is available for work at the conclusion of each temporary assignment so they may be reassigned and continue working. The plain language of the statute allows benefits for a claimant “who notifies the temporary employment firm of completion of an assignment *and* who seeks reassignment.” (Emphasis supplied.)

In this case, the claimant did not have notice that the assignment had ended, he was waiting for Motion Industries to contact him on October 20, 2023. He also did not receive the call notifying him the assignment was over or any other call. Furthermore, the claimant never received a copy of the assignment policy. Therefore, benefits are granted, provided he is otherwise eligible.

**DECISION:**

The January 3, 2024, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is REVERSED. The claimant did not quit either through his own words nor did he through failing to contact the employer within three working days of the end of the assignment. Benefits are granted, provided he is otherwise eligible.



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Sean M. Nelson  
Administrative Law Judge II

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January 29, 2024  
Decision Dated and Mailed

SMN/jkb

**APPEAL RIGHTS.** If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board  
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100  
Des Moines, Iowa 50321  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
Online: [eab.iowa.gov](http://eab.iowa.gov)**

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.

**AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL 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.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> or by contacting the District Court Clerk of Court <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

**Note to Parties:** YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or 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.

**Note to Claimant:** It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

**SERVICE INFORMATION:**

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

**DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN.** Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board  
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100  
Des Moines, Iowa 50321  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
Online: [eab.iowa.gov](http://eab.iowa.gov)**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal.

**UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:**

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiriera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que se encuentra en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> o comunicándose con el Tribunal de Distrito Secretario del tribunal <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

**Nota para las partes:** USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

**Nota para el reclamante:** es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

**SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:**

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.