

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

TRAVIS COULTER
3120 SCENIC DR
CEDAR FALLS IA 50613

EXPRESS SERVICES INC
PO BOX 720660
OKLAHOMA CITY OK 73172

Appeal Number: 06A-UI-03116-BT
OC: 04/10/05 R: 03
Claimant: Respondent (1)

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 96.4-3 - Able and Available for Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Express Services, Inc. (employer) appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated March 7, 2006, reference 03, which held that Travis Coulter (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 April 6, 2006. The claimant participated in the hearing. The employer participated through Kim Jenison, Staffing Consultant.

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 employed as a full-time client transaction technician from October 25, 2005 through January 23, 2006. His assignment was ended and the employer had no additional work for him at that time. The claimant was available for work but requested short term assignments until he went on vacation on February 17, 2006. After he returned, he called the employer on February 27, 2006 requesting any assignments.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue to be determined is whether the claimant is able and available for work. For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant was able and available for work as of January 23, 2006

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".

871 IAC 24.22(2) provides:

Benefits eligibility conditions. For an individual to be eligible to receive benefits the department must find that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. The individual bears the burden of establishing that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work.

(2) Available for work. The availability requirement is satisfied when an individual is willing, able, and ready to accept suitable work which the individual does not have good cause to refuse, that is, the individual is genuinely attached to the labor market. Since, under unemployment insurance laws, it is the availability of an individual that is required to be tested, the labor market must be described in terms of the individual. A labor market for an individual means a market for the type of service which the individual offers in the geographical area in which the individual offers the service. Market in that sense does not mean that job vacancies must exist; the purpose of unemployment insurance is to compensate for lack of job vacancies. It means only that the type of services which an individual is offering is generally performed in the geographical area in which the individual is offering the services.

The claimant has the burden of proof in establishing his ability and availability for work. Davoren v. Iowa Employment Security Commission, 277 N.W.2d 602 (Iowa 1979). Although the employer's appeal letter states the claimant was discharged for insubordination, the

employer witness at the hearing testified that the claimant was removed from his assignment on January 23, 2006, but not discharged from employment with the employer. He was available for additional assignments but the employer did not have any work available for him. The claimant is still employed and working on-call whenever work is available. Benefits are allowed.

DECISION:

The unemployment insurance decision dated March 7, 2006, reference 03, is affirmed. The claimant meets the availability requirements of the law and benefits are allowed.

sdb/pjs