

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

JOEL W SCHULTZ
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 11A-UI-07732-LT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

TECHNISOURCE INC
Employer

**OC: 04/24/11
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.5(3)a – Work Refusal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the June 7, 2011 (reference 01) decision that denied benefits. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on July 8, 2011. Claimant participated. Employer participated through recruiter, Jenny Hove.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether claimant refused a suitable offer of work and if so, whether the refusal was for a good cause reason.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Employer made an offer of work to claimant by Thomas Peters on May 2, 2011. That offer included the following terms: assignment at Farm Bureau for contract PC help desk duties, 40 hours per week at \$12.50 per hour, daytime hours, to start at the beginning of May. The wage offered for the job is comparable to the prevailing rate of pay for similar work in the Des Moines area. Claimant's average weekly wage is \$462.85. The offer was made in the second week of unemployment. Claimant declined the offer since he was searching for a position as a mainframe programmer, which is similar to the position he most recently held through the employer at Wells Fargo. He was not qualified to handle PC troubleshooting calls as this job would have required, but works primarily in mainframe programming. The assignment was for one week and would not have allowed enough time for training in the area with which he was unfamiliar.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes claimant did not refuse a suitable offer of work.

Iowa Code § 96.5-3-a provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

3. Failure to accept work. If the department finds that an individual has failed, without good cause, either to apply for available, suitable work when directed by the department or to accept suitable work when offered that individual. The department shall, if possible, furnish the individual with the names of employers which are seeking employees. The individual shall apply to and obtain the signatures of the employers designated by the department on forms provided by the department. However, the employers may refuse to sign the forms. The individual's failure to obtain the signatures of designated employers, which have not refused to sign the forms, shall disqualify the individual for benefits until requalified. To requalify for benefits after disqualification under this subsection, the individual shall work in and be paid wages for insured work equal to ten times the individual's weekly benefit amount, provided the individual is otherwise eligible.

a. In determining whether or not any work is suitable for an individual, the department shall consider the degree of risk involved to the individual's health, safety, and morals, the individual's physical fitness, prior training, length of unemployment, and prospects for securing local work in the individual's customary occupation, the distance of the available work from the individual's residence, and any other factor which the department finds bears a reasonable relation to the purposes of this paragraph. Work is suitable if the work meets all the other criteria of this paragraph and if the gross weekly wages for the work equal or exceed the following percentages of the individual's average weekly wage for insured work paid to the individual during that quarter of the individual's base period in which the individual's wages were highest:

(1) One hundred percent, if the work is offered during the first five weeks of unemployment.

(2) Seventy-five percent, if the work is offered during the sixth through the twelfth week of unemployment.

(3) Seventy percent, if the work is offered during the thirteenth through the eighteenth week of unemployment.

(4) Sixty-five percent, if the work is offered after the eighteenth week of unemployment.

However, the provisions of this paragraph shall not require an individual to accept employment below the federal minimum wage.

The offer was unsuitable, as it did not meet the claimant's skill set or work history and did not allow enough time for training to overcome that. Benefits are allowed.

DECISION:

The June 7, 2011 (reference 01) decision is reversed. Claimant did not refuse a suitable offer of work. Benefits are allowed, provided claimant is otherwise eligible.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/css