

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

EV W COCHRANE
Claimant

APPEAL 15A-UI-05681-H2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 04/05/15
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

871 IAC 24.2(1)g – Retroactive Benefits

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the May 13, 2015, reference 02, decision that denied the request for retroactive benefits without having held a fact-finding interview pursuant to 871 IAC 24.9(2)b. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was held on June 29, 2015. Claimant participated.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether claimant's request for retroactive benefits should be granted.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant filed a claim effective April 5, 2015. The claimant filed his first two weeks of continuing claims without issue. The system then locked him out and as he had an appeal pending he believed that was why he could no longer file continuing claims. After his first appeal hearing he contacted a customer service representative who told him there was a problem with his claim in the agency system. Agency computer error prevented the claimant from filing his weekly continuing claims.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request for retroactive benefits is granted.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1), (2) and (3) provide:

Procedures for workers desiring to file a claim for benefits for unemployment insurance.

(1) § 96.6 of the employment security law of Iowa states that claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such rules as the department prescribes. The department of workforce development accordingly prescribes:

h. Effective starting date for the benefit year.

(1) Filing for benefits shall be effective as of Sunday of the current calendar week in which, subsequent to the individual's separation from work, an individual reports in person at a workforce development center and registers for work in accordance with paragraph "a" of this rule.

(2) The claim may be backdated prior to the first day of the calendar week in which the claimant does report and file a claim for the following reasons:

Backdated prior to the week in which the individual reported if the individual presents to the department sufficient grounds to justify or excuse the delay;

There is scheduled filing in the following week because of a mass layoff;

The failure of the department to recognize the expiration of the claimant's previous benefit year;

The individual is given incorrect advice by a workforce development employee;

The claimant filed an interstate claim against another state which has been determined as ineligible;

Failure on the part of the employer to comply with the provisions of the law or of these rules;

Coercion or intimidation exercised by the employer to prevent the prompt filing of such claim;

Failure of the department to discharge its responsibilities promptly in connection with such claim, the department shall extend the period during which such claim may be filed to a date which shall be not less than one week after the individual has received appropriate notice of potential rights to benefits, provided, that no such claim may be filed after the 13 weeks subsequent to the end of the benefit year during which the week of unemployment occurred. In the event continuous jurisdiction is exercised under the provisions of the law, the department may, in its discretion, extend the period during which claims, with respect to week of unemployment affected by such redetermination, may be filed.

(3) When the benefit year expires on any day but Saturday, the effective date of the new claim is the Sunday of the current week in which the claim is filed even though it may overlap into the old benefit year up to six days. However, backdating shall not be allowed at the change of the calendar quarter if the backdating would cause an overlap of the same quarter in two base periods. When the overlap situation occurs, the effective date of the new claim may be postdated up to six days. If the claimant has benefits remaining on the old claim, the claimant may be eligible for benefits for that period by extending the old benefit year up to six days.

Claimant was prohibited from filing weekly claims by an agency computer error. That is good cause for failing to file weekly continuing claims and retroactive benefits are granted. Claimant shall be paid benefits for the five-week period ending May 9, 2015.

DECISION:

The May 13, 2015, reference 02 decision is reversed. The claimant's request for retroactive benefits is granted.

Teresa K. Hillary
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

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