

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

BARRY BERRY
PO BOX 178
FARRELL PA 16121

CRST INC
c/o SHEAKLEY UNISERVICE INC
PO BOX 1160
COLUMBUS OH 43216-1160

Appeal Number: 04A-UI-08797-S2T
OC: 07/18/04 R: 12
Claimant: Appellant (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 96.5-1 - Voluntary Quit

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Barry Berry (claimant) appealed a representative's August 10, 2004 decision (reference 01) that concluded he was not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits because he had voluntarily quit employment with CRST (employer). After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on September 8, 2004. The claimant participated personally. The employer participated by Sandy Matt, Human Resources Specialist.

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 hired on June 25, 2003, as a full-time over-the-road driver. The claimant left work on May 12, 2004, to take care of affairs related to the death of his grandmother. The claimant indicated he was ready to return to work on June 2, 2004, but did not do so. In mid-July 2004, the claimant again was ready to return to work. The employer assumed the claimant to have quit work and would not allow the claimant to return to work.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue is whether the claimant voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer. For the following reasons, the administrative law judge concludes he did.

Iowa Code Section 96.5-1 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.

871 IAC 24.25(20) provides:

Voluntary quit without good cause. In general, a voluntary quit means discontinuing the employment because the employee no longer desires to remain in the relationship of an employee with the employer from whom the employee has separated. The employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.5. However, the claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving Iowa Code section 96.5, subsection (1), paragraphs "a" through "i," and subsection 10. The following reasons for a voluntary quit shall be presumed to be without good cause attributable to the employer:

(20) The claimant left for compelling personal reasons; however, the period of absence exceeded ten working days.

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 claimant's intention to voluntarily leave work was evidenced by his words and actions. He told the employer that he was leaving to take care of personal affairs and never returned to work. When an employee is absent from work for more than ten days to attend to personal business, his leaving is without good cause attributable to the employer. The claimant left work for more than ten days to take care of his personal affairs. His leaving was without good cause attributable to the employer. The claimant voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are denied.

DECISION:

The representative's August 10, 2004 decision (reference 01) is affirmed. The claimant voluntarily left work without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are withheld until he has worked in and has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times his weekly benefit amount provided he is otherwise eligible.

bas/kjf