

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

JEFFREY J STEFFENSMEIER
Claimant

APPEAL NO: 14A-UI-01425-ST

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 01/26/14
Claimant: Appellant (4)

871 IAC 24.2(1)a & h(1)(2) – Backdating of Claim

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant appealed a department decision dated January 29, 2014, reference 01, that denied his request to backdate his claim prior to January 26, 2014. A telephone hearing was held on February 27, 2014. The claimant participated.

ISSUE:

Whether the claimant's claim may be backdated.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge having heard the witness testimony and having considered the evidence in the record finds: The claimant experienced a work slow-down from Control Installations in January 2014. He worked a four-hour service call during the week January 19 to January 25, and expected other service calls. He waited to file an unemployment claim because he believed he would have enough work that would make him ineligible.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

871 IAC 24.2(1)h(1), (2) and (3) provide:

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

(1) Section 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.

The administrative law judge concludes that the claimant established a justifiable cause for the delay in filing a claim for the week ending January 25, 2014, and his request to backdate the claim to January 19 is approved.

The claimant offered a justifiable excuse for the claim week due to working with an expectation of further work.

DECISION:

The department decision dated January 29, 2014, reference 01, is modified in favor of the claimant. The claimant may backdate his for benefits to January 19, 2014. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

Randy L. Stephenson
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

rls/pjs