

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU**

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**MICHAEL J MCDERMOTT**  
Claimant

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**APPEAL NO. 23A-UI-03719-B2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 03/29/20**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1R)**

PL 116-136 Section 2104 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)  
Fed Law PL § 116-136 9021(D)(4) – Lost Wages Assistance Program Waiver of Repayment  
Fed Law PL 116-136, Sec. 2107(E) 4 – Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation  
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Overpayment of Benefits  
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – LWAP Benefits

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Claimant appealed a representative's decision dated March 28, 2023, reference 03, that concluded claimant's application to have his overpayments of PEUC, FPUC, and LWAP benefits waived was incomplete. A hearing was scheduled and held on April 25, 2023 pursuant to due notice. Claimant did participate and had witness Kim McDermott. Claimant's exhibits A-B were admitted.

**ISSUES:**

Should the claimant's PEUC, LWAP, and / or PEUC waiver application be determined to be incomplete?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant attempted to file his application for waiver through the HTTP address included on his overpayment decision issued in 23-UI-01118-DZ-T. The waiver application was stated by IWD to be incomplete.

The ref 03 unemployment insurance decision issued on March 28, 2023 stated that claimant was invited to submit a new, completed application. The decision went on to state a webpage to access a new application. Said page was listed as [HTTPS://WWW.IOWAWORKFORCEDEVELOPMENT.GOV/FEDERAL-UNEMPLOYMENT-OVERPAYMENT-RECOVERY](https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/federal-unemployment-overpayment-recovery). Claimant repeatedly attempted to file a new application at the webpage, but found that the page couldn't be found through the address shown.

At this hearing, the administrative law judge found that the overpayment decision included a web address for claimant to file his waiver. Said address was listed as

[HTTPS://WWW.IOWAWORKFORCEDEVELOPMENT.GOV/FEDERAL-UNEMPLOYMENT-INSURANCE-OVERPAYMENT-RECOVERY](https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/federal-unemployment-insurance-overpayment-recovery). This address allowed access to the webpage.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code section 96.3(7)a-b, as amended in 2008, provides:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits.

a. If an individual receives benefits for which the individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible, even though the individual acts in good faith and is not otherwise at fault, the benefits shall be recovered. The department in its discretion may recover the overpayment of benefits either by having a sum equal to the overpayment deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual or by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to the overpayment.

b. (1) (a) If the department determines that an overpayment has been made, the charge for the overpayment against the employer's account shall be removed and the account shall be credited with an amount equal to the overpayment from the unemployment compensation trust fund and this credit shall include both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5. The employer shall not be relieved of charges if benefits are paid because the employer or an agent of the employer failed to respond timely or adequately to the department's request for information relating to the payment of benefits. This prohibition against relief of charges shall apply to both contributory and reimbursable employers.

(b) However, provided the benefits were not received as the result of fraud or willful misrepresentation by the individual, benefits shall not be recovered from an individual if the employer did not participate in the initial determination to award benefits pursuant to section 96.6, subsection 2, and an overpayment occurred because of a subsequent reversal on appeal regarding the issue of the individual's separation from employment.

(2) An accounting firm, agent, unemployment insurance accounting firm, or other entity that represents an employer in unemployment claim matters and demonstrates a continuous pattern of failing to participate in the initial determinations to award benefits, as determined and defined by rule by the department, shall be denied permission by the department to represent any employers in unemployment insurance matters. This subparagraph does not apply to attorneys or counselors admitted to practice in the courts of this state pursuant to section 602.10101.

PL116-136, Sec. 2104 provides, in pertinent part:

(b) Provisions of Agreement

(1) Federal pandemic unemployment compensation.--Any agreement under this section shall provide that the State agency of the State will make payments of regular compensation to individuals in amounts and to the extent that they would be determined if the State law of the State were applied, with respect to any week for which the individual is (disregarding this section) otherwise entitled under the State law to receive regular compensation, as if such State law had been modified in a manner such that the amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable for any week shall be equal to

(A) the amount determined under the State law (before the application of this paragraph), plus

(B) an additional amount of \$600 (in this section referred to as “Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation”).

....

(f) Fraud and Overpayments

(2) Repayment.—In the case of individuals who have received amounts of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to which they were not entitled, the State shall require such individuals to repay the amounts of such Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to the State agency except that the State agency may waive such repayment if it determines that

(A) the payment of such FPUC was without fault on the part of any such individual; and

(B) such repayment would be contrary to equity and good conscience.

PL 116-136 Sec 2107 provides in pertinent part:

#### PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

(e) FRAUD AND OVERPAYMENTS.— (1) IN GENERAL.—If an individual knowingly has made, or caused to be made by another, a false statement or representation of a material fact, or knowingly has failed, or caused another to fail, to disclose a material fact, and as a result of such false statement or representation or of such nondisclosure such individual has received an amount of pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under this section to which such individual was not entitled, such individual— (A) shall be ineligible for further pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under this section in accordance with the provisions of the applicable State unemployment compensation law relating to fraud in connection with a claim for unemployment compensation; and (B) shall be subject to prosecution under section 1001 of title 18, United States Code. (2) REPAYMENT.—In the case of individuals who have received amounts of pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under this section to which they were not entitled, the State shall require such individuals to repay the amounts of such pandemic emergency unemployment compensation to the State agency, except that the State agency may waive such repayment if it determines that— (A) the payment of such pandemic emergency unemployment compensation was without fault on the part of any such individual; and (B) such repayment would be contrary to equity and good conscience.

The administrative law judge concludes that claimant did not successfully complete the waiver application such that a decision could be made on whether to waive federal overpayments in this matter. Claimant was unable to correct his error as IWD erroneously put down a web address that was incorrect.

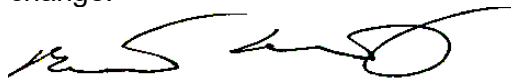
Claimant was instructed to contact IWD upon completion of the application to ensure that all fields were successfully completed. IWD should assist claimant in ensuring the document is correctly completed.

**DECISION:**

The decision of the representative dated March 28, 2023, reference 03, is affirmed. Claimant has not successfully completed a waiver application in this matter.

Representatives from the waiver division of IWD should assist claimant in successfully completing the waiver form.

Representatives from the waiver division of IWD should amend decision 776D such that the correct webpage be changed such that it will be listed as [HTTPS://WWW.IOWAWORKFORCEDEVELOPMENT.GOV/FEDERAL-UNEMPLOYMENT-INSURANCE-OVERPAYMENT-RECOVERY](https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/federal-unemployment-insurance-overpayment-recovery). The matter is remanded to the fact finder for that change.



**Blair Bennett** | Administrative Law Judge II  
Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals

April 27, 2023  
Decision Dated and Mailed

bab/scn

**NOTE TO CLAIMANT:**

- This decision determines you have been overpaid PEUC, FPUC and LWAP benefits. If you disagree with this decision, you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision.
- You may also request a waiver of this overpayment. The written request must include the following information:
  1. Claimant name & address.
  2. Decision number/date of decision.
  3. Dollar amount of overpayment requested for waiver.
  4. Relevant facts that you feel would justify a waiver.

- The request should be sent to:

Iowa Workforce Development  
Overpayment waiver request  
1000 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

- This Information can also be found on the Iowa Workforce Development website at: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/unemployment-insurance-overpayment-and-recovery>.
- If this decision becomes final and you are not eligible for a waiver, you will have to repay the benefits you received.

**APPEAL RIGHTS.** If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor – Lucas Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
Online: eab.iowa.gov**

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. *There is no filing fee to file an appeal with the Employment Appeal Board.*

**AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL 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.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If you do not file an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at [www.iowacourts.gov/efile](http://www.iowacourts.gov/efile). *There may be a filing fee to file the petition in District Court.*

**Note to Parties:** YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or 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.

**Note to Claimant:** It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

**SERVICE INFORMATION:**

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

**DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN.** Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board  
4th Floor – Lucas Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal. *No hay tarifa de presentación para presentar una apelación ante la Junta de Apelación de Empleo.*

UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si no presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelación de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en una acción final de la agencia y tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en [www.iowacourts.gov/efile](http://www.iowacourts.gov/efile). *Puede haber una tarifa de presentación para presentar la petición en el Tribunal de Distrito.*

**Nota para las partes:** USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

**Nota para el reclamante:** es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

**SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:**

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.