

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

ANDREW J DETERS
Claimant

CAR FRESHNER CORPORATION
Employer

APPEAL 23A-UI-03761-SN-T
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 03/27/22
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quit
Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant, Andrew J. Deters, filed an appeal from the April 3, 2023, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits based upon her voluntary quit. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on April 26, 2023. The claimant participated and testified. The employer did not participate.

ISSUES:

Was the separation a layoff, discharge for misconduct or voluntary quit without good cause attributable to the employer?

Whether the claimant was able and available after separating from the employer?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

The claimant was employed full-time as a mechanic from November 28, 2022, and was separated from employment on March 2, 2023, when he quit. The claimant was hired to work a schedule from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 5:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Fridays.

On January 18, 2023, the claimant began taking classes at 4:00 p.m. to be an emergency medical technician (“EMT”). These classes could run until 11:30 p.m. The claimant initially tried to come in at 5:30 a.m., so he could leave earlier to attend class. The claimant was late several times, so the employer stopped allowing him to use this as an option.

The claimant then started using paid time off (“PTO”) to cover the difference to allow him to leave early. In late-February 2023, the claimant was running out of PTO. A human resources generalist told the claimant that he could only use PTO in two hour increments.

On March 2, 2023, the claimant informed the plant manager that he would be resigning effective immediately. The claimant’s primary reason was that he could not make his school schedule

and work schedule work together. The claimant also quit because he thought the work environment was “cliquey.” He offered some examples of strict observance to rules that could change unexpectedly to define this term.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The administrative law judge concludes claimant’s separation from the employment was without good cause attributable to the employer. The issue regarding the claimant’s ability to and availability for work need not be evaluated because the separation is disqualifying.

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.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.25 (18), (21) and (26) provide:

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:

(18) The claimant left because of a dislike of the shift worked.

(21) The claimant left because of dissatisfaction with the work environment.

(26) The claimant left to go to school.

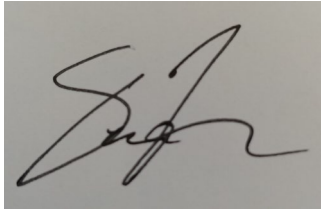
The claimant has the burden of proving that the voluntary leaving was for good cause attributable to the employer. Iowa Code § 96.6(2). “Good cause” for leaving employment must be that which is reasonable to the average person, not the overly sensitive individual or the claimant in particular. *Uniweld Products v. Indus. Relations Comm’n*, 277 So.2d 827 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1973). 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).

In the hearing, the claimant contended that his quit should be attributable to the employer because the employer was aware of his plan to take this class in January 2023. The administrative law judge understands the claimant’s argument from a business perspective, but it must be remembered that the claimant also accepted the job knowing this as well. The claimant quit despite this almost inevitable conflict. This type of quitting is not attributable to the employer. See Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.25 (18), (21) and (26).

While claimant's leaving may have been based upon good personal reasons, it was not for a good-cause reason attributable to the employer according to Iowa law. Benefits are denied.

DECISION:

The April 3, 2023, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is AFFIRMED. The claimant voluntarily left his employment without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are withheld until such time as he has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times his weekly benefit amount, provided he is otherwise eligible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean M. Nelson', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Sean M. Nelson
Administrative Law Judge II
Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals
Administrative Hearings Division – UI Appeals Bureau

April 27, 2023
Decision Dated and Mailed

smn/mh

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
4th 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.

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 then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files 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 Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> or by contacting the District Court Clerk of Court <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

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.

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 nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiriera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que se encuentra en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> o comunicándose con el Tribunal de Distrito Secretario del tribunal <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

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.