

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**PAUL COLEMAN**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO: 11A-UI-00089-BT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**LABOR READY MIDWEST INC**  
Employer

**OC: 11/28/10**  
**Claimant: Respondent (2/R)**

Iowa Code § 96.5-1-j - Voluntary Quit of Temporary Employment  
Iowa Code § 96.3-7 - Overpayment

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Labor Ready Midwest, Inc. (employer) appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated December 20, 2010, reference 01, which held that Paul Coleman (claimant) was eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on February 9, 2011. The claimant participated in the hearing. The employer participated through Julie Achenbaugh, Customer Service Representative and Michael Nicolosi, Branch Manager. Employer's Exhibits One and Two were admitted into evidence. Based on the evidence, the arguments of the parties, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

**ISSUE:**

The issue is whether the claimant is disqualified for failure to contact the temporary employment agency within three working days after the completion of his assignment, when and if notified of this requirement at the time of hire?

**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 as a temporary general laborer on June 5, 2009. At the time of hire, the claimant signed a State of Iowa Unemployment Law acknowledgement form which advised him of the requirement to check in for additional work after the completion of an assignment. State law requires employees to check in within three working days after an assignment ends to provide the employer notification of the claimant's availability and failure to do so would be considered as a voluntary quit. The claimant was given a copy of the document he signed, which is not part of the application or contract of employment.

The employer requires employees to contact them on a daily basis if the employee wants to work. The claimant walked off an assignment at the Council Bluffs School in August 2010. However, he returned to work and completed an assignment with Omni Engineering on

October 14, 2010. The claimant did not check in for additional work after he completed his last assignment.

The claimant filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits effective November 28, 2010 and has received benefits after the separation from employment.

### **REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The issue in this case is whether the reasons for the claimant's separation from employment qualify him to receive unemployment insurance benefits. The claimant is not qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits if he voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer or if the employer discharged him for work-connected misconduct. Iowa Code §§ 96.5-1 and 96.5-2-a. The employer herein is a temporary employment agency and temporary employment agencies are governed by Iowa Code § 96.5-1-j, which places specific restrictions on both the employer and the employee with regard to qualification for unemployment insurance benefits after a voluntary separation.

Iowa Code § 96.5-1-j 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, but the individual shall not be disqualified if the department finds that:

j. The individual is a temporary employee of a temporary employment firm who notifies the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment and who seeks reassignment. Failure of the individual to notify the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment within three working days of the completion of each employment assignment under a contract of hire shall be deemed a voluntary quit unless the individual was not advised in writing of the duty to notify the temporary employment firm upon completion of an employment assignment or the individual had good cause for not contacting the temporary employment firm within three working days and notified the firm at the first reasonable opportunity thereafter.

To show that the employee was advised in writing of the notification requirement of this paragraph, the temporary employment firm shall advise the temporary employee by requiring the temporary employee, at the time of employment with the temporary employment firm, to read and sign a document that provides a clear and concise explanation of the notification requirement and the consequences of a failure to notify. The document shall be separate from any contract of employment and a copy of the signed document shall be provided to the temporary employee.

For the purposes of this paragraph:

(1) "Temporary employee" means an individual who is employed by a temporary employment firm to provide services to clients to supplement their work force during absences, seasonal workloads, temporary skill or labor market shortages, and for special assignments and projects.

(2) "Temporary employment firm" means a person engaged in the business of employing temporary employees.

The evidence indicates the claimant knew or should have known he was required to contact the employer after the completion of his assignment so the employer knew whether he was available for additional assignments. The claimant did not contact the employer after October 14, 2010. He contends the employer told him he was no longer needed but the evidence does not support that contention. In fact, the employer has work available and wants the claimant to return to work but the claimant refuses to do so. The claimant's separation from employment was without good cause attributable to the employer and benefits are denied.

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) provides that benefits must be recovered from a claimant who receives benefits and is later determined to be ineligible for benefits, even though the claimant acted in good faith and was not otherwise at fault. The overpayment recovery law was updated in 2008. See Iowa Code § 96.3(7)(b). Under the revised law, a claimant will not be required to repay an overpayment of benefits if all of the following factors are met. First, the prior award of benefits must have been made in connection with a decision regarding the claimant's separation from a particular employment. Second, the claimant must not have engaged in fraud or willful misrepresentation to obtain the benefits or in connection with the Agency's initial decision to award benefits. Third, the employer must not have participated at the initial fact-finding proceeding that resulted in the initial decision to award benefits. If Workforce Development determines there has been an overpayment of benefits, the employer will not be charged for the benefits, regardless of whether the claimant is required to repay the benefits.

Because the claimant has been deemed ineligible for benefits, any benefits the claimant has received could constitute an overpayment. Accordingly, the administrative law judge will remand the matter to the Claims Division for determination of whether there has been an overpayment, the amount of the overpayment, and whether the claimant will have to repay the benefits.

**DECISION:**

The unemployment insurance decision dated December 20, 2010, reference 01, is reversed. 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. The matter is remanded to the Claims Section for investigation and determination of the overpayment issue.

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Susan D. Ackerman  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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