

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**REBECCA PIPER**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 17A-UI-02022-JE-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 03/27/16  
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) - Recovery of Benefit Overpayment

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant appealed the February 15, 2017, reference 05, representative's decision that concluded the claimant is obligated to repay unemployment insurance benefits in the gross amount of \$1,137.00 for the three week period ending December 3, 2016, as a result of a representative's decision that denied benefits to the claimant following her separation from Team Staffing Solutions. A telephone hearing was held on March 16, 2017, pursuant to due notice. The claimant participated in the hearing.

**ISSUE:**

The issue is whether the claimant received and is obligated to repay the gross amount of unemployment insurance benefits received for the period in question.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The overpayment issue in this case was created by a representative's separation decision that disqualified the claimant from receiving benefits after a separation from Team Staffing Solutions. The claimant did not appeal that decision. The employer participated in the initial fact-finding interview regarding the claimant's separation from employment. The claimant did receive gross benefits in the amount of \$1,137.00 for the three week period ending December 3, 2016.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The administrative law judge concludes the claimant has been overpaid benefits for the period in question.

Iowa Code § 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.

The administrative law judge concludes that the employer did participate in the fact-finding interview. Although the claimant did not engage in any fraud or willful misrepresentation to obtain the benefits, she received benefits to which she was not entitled according to the representative's decision which the claimant chose not to appeal. Those benefits must be recovered in accordance with the provisions of Iowa law.

**DECISION:**

The February 15, 2017, reference 05, representative's decision is affirmed. The claimant has received unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$1,137.00 to which she was not entitled and those benefits must be recovered in accordance with Iowa law.

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Julie Elder  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

je/rvs