

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

ANITA L MATHERLY
Claimant

APPEAL 17A-UI-03614-DL-T
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 11/06/16
Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) - Able and Available
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e – Notice to Report
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(11) – Failure to Report

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the March 24, 2017, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits because of not being able to or available for work. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was set for April 27, 2017. Claimant registered for the hearing but no hearing was held as there was sufficient evidence in the appeal letter and administrative record to resolve the matter without testimony.

ISSUE:

Did the claimant fail to report as directed or offer a good cause reason for failure to do so?
Is the claimant able to work and available for work the week-ending March 11, 2017?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having examined the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: A notice was mailed to the claimant to report to IWD about her availability for work the week ending March 11, 2017. She did not report because she did not receive the notice. The claimant filed a weekly voice response claim and mistakenly pushed the button indicating she was not available for work.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the underlying issue was the result of a reporting error, and the claimant has established a good cause reason for having failed to report as directed.

Iowa Code section 96.4(3) provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

3. The individual is able to work, is available for work, and is earnestly and actively seeking work. This subsection is waived if the individual is deemed partially unemployed, while employed at the individual's regular job, as defined in section 96.19,

subsection 38, paragraph "b", unnumbered paragraph (1), or temporarily unemployed as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "c". The work search requirements of this subsection and the disqualification requirement for failure to apply for, or to accept suitable work of section 96.5, subsection 3 are waived if the individual is not disqualified for benefits under section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraph "h".

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e provides:

e. In order to maintain continuing eligibility for benefits during any continuous period of unemployment, an individual shall report as directed to do so by an authorized representative of the department. If the individual has moved to another locality, the individual may register and report in person at a workforce development center at the time previously specified for the reporting.

The method of reporting shall be weekly if a voice response continued claim is filed, unless otherwise directed by an authorized representative of the department. An individual who files a voice response continued claim will have the benefit payment automatically deposited weekly in the individual's account at a financial institution or be paid by the mailing of a warrant on a biweekly basis.

...

The department retains the ultimate authority to choose the method of reporting and payment.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(11) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

(11) Failure to report as directed to workforce development in response to the notice which was mailed to the claimant will result in the claimant being deemed not to meet the availability requirements.

Since she did not receive the notice, claimant has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed, and because the weekly claim entry indicating no work search was made in error, benefits are allowed.

DECISION:

The March 24, 2017, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed. The underlying issue was the result of a reporting error. Benefits are allowed effective March 5, 2017, provided she is otherwise eligible.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/rvs