

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

BRANDI K BELZ
Claimant

APPEAL 22A-UI-06424-DZ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 11/15/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment
PL 116-136, Sec. 2104 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Brandi K Belz, the claimant/appellant, filed an appeal from the March 3, 2022 (reference 11) unemployment insurance (UI) decision that concluded she was overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits in the gross amount of \$600.00. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on April 22, 2022. Ms. Belz participated personally. The department did not participate in the hearing. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Has Ms. Belz been overpaid FPUC benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Ms. Belz filed an initial claim for REGULAR (state) UI benefits effective November 15, 2020. On January 15, 2021, IWD issued a (reference 01) decision finding Ms. Belz not eligible for REGULAR UI benefits as of January 10, 2021 because she did not report for a reemployment and eligibility assessment on January 14, 2021. Even though IWD issued the denial decision, the department did not lock Ms. Belz's claim so she would stop receiving benefits.

On January 28, Ms. Belz filed weekly claims for the weeks of January 10-16 and January 17-23. Because IWD had not locked her claim, even though the department had found her not eligible as of January 10, IWD paid Ms. Belz REGULAR (state) UI benefits on her claim. IWD also paid Ms. Belz FPUC benefits in the gross amount of \$600.00 for those two weeks. Ms. Belz participated in the assessment on January 27, 2021. IWD issued a January 28, 2021, (reference 07) UI decision finding Ms. Belz eligible for benefits as of January 24, 2021 since she participated in the assessment. That meant Ms. Belz was not eligible for benefits only from January 10 through January 23.

FPUC was a program under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 that provided additional payment to those individuals that are receiving state or federal

unemployment insurance payments. It is funded by the federal government, not by state unemployment taxes paid by employers. The Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020 (enacted December 27, 2020) and American Rescue Act of 2021 (enacted March 11, 2021) extended FPUC benefits for weeks of unemployment to September 6, 2021. The FPUC amount was \$600.00 per week from April 5, 2020 through July 31, 2020. The FPUC amount was \$300.00 per week from December 27, 2020 through September 5, 2021. Governor Reynolds ended Iowa's participation in federal pandemic-related unemployment benefit programs, including the FPUC program, effective June 12, 2021.

Ms. Belz appealed the January 15, 2021 decision to the Iowa Workforce Development Appeals Bureau. The administrative law judge's decision in Appeal 22A-UI-06419-DZ-T affirmed the reference 01 decision. That meant Ms. Belz was not eligible for REGULAR (state) UI benefits, and FPUC benefits from January 10 through January 23.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes Ms. Belz has been overpaid FPUC benefits.

Iowa Code §96.3(7) provides, in pertinent part:

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.

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...

Since Ms. Belz is not eligible for REGULAR (state) UI benefits as of January 10, 2021, she is also not eligible for FPUC benefits as of that date. Ms. Belz has been overpaid FPUC benefits in the gross amount of \$600.00 for two weeks between January 10-23, 2021 which should be repaid.

DECISION:

The March 3, 2022 (reference 11) decision is AFFIRMED. Ms. Belz has been overpaid FPUC benefits in the gross amount of \$600.00, which must be repaid.



Daniel Zeno
Administrative Law Judge
Iowa Workforce Development
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209
Fax 515-478-3528

May 2, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

dz/scn

NOTE TO MS. BELZ:

- This decision determines you have been overpaid FPUC 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 1) by filing an appeal to the EAB, 2) applying for a waiver online, or 3) applying for a waiver in writing by mail.**
- The **online request form** is available on the Iowa Workforce Development website at: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/federal-unemployment-insurance-overpayment-recovery>
- The **written request** must include the following information:
 - Your name & address.
 - Decision number/date of decision.
 - Dollar amount of overpayment requested for waiver.
 - 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
- If this decision becomes final and you are not eligible for a waiver, you will have to repay the benefits you received.