

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

ASHLEY I HICKS
Claimant

APPEAL NO: 15A-UI-01369-S2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 01/04/15
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Section 871 IAC 24.2(1)a & h(1) & (2) – Request to Backdate Claim

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Ashley Hicks (claimant) appealed a representative's January 23, 2015 (reference 01) decision that denied a request to backdate the claim for benefits. After a hearing notice was mailed to the claimant's last-known address of record, a telephone hearing was held on February 17, 2015. The claimant did participate.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant's request to backdate the unemployment insurance claim should be granted.

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 separated from employment on December 23, 2014. During the week ending December 20, 2014. In advance of her layoff, the claimant contacted IWD and asked if she needed to anything to prepare for filing her claim during the week ending January 3, 2015. The worker told the claimant she should file her claim on January 3 or 4, 2015 and her claim was open and in order.

In fact, the claimant's claim year expired on December 21, 2014 and she would not be able to open a new claim on Sunday, January 4, 2015. The claimant attempted to file her claim on January 4, 2015 and received a message that there was a break in her claim. She was told to contact her local workforce office. She contacted the Ottumwa, Iowa office on January 5, 2015 and left a voice mail message. On January 6, 2015 the claimant was able to contact the Des Moines, Iowa office. She opened a new claim year with an effective date of January 4, 2015 but by this time she had returned to work. The claimant requests that the claim be backdated to the week ending January 3, 2015.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request to backdate the claim should be granted.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1), (2) and (3) provide:

Procedures for workers desiring to file a claim for benefits for unemployment insurance.

(1) Section 96.6 of the employment security law of Iowa states that claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such rules as the department prescribes. The department of workforce development accordingly prescribes:

h. Effective starting date for the benefit year.

(1) Filing for benefits shall be effective as of Sunday of the current calendar week in which, subsequent to the individual's separation from work, an individual reports in person at a workforce development center and registers for work in accordance with paragraph "a" of this rule.

(2) The claim may be backdated prior to the first day of the calendar week in which the claimant does report and file a claim for the following reasons:

Backdated prior to the week in which the individual reported if the individual presents to the department sufficient grounds to justify or excuse the delay;

There is scheduled filing in the following week because of a mass layoff;

The failure of the department to recognize the expiration of the claimant's previous benefit year;

The individual is given incorrect advice by a workforce development employee;

The claimant filed an interstate claim against another state which has been determined as ineligible;

Failure on the part of the employer to comply with the provisions of the law or of these rules;

Coercion or intimidation exercised by the employer to prevent the prompt filing of such claim;

Failure of the department to discharge its responsibilities promptly in connection with such claim, the department shall extend the period during which such claim may be filed to a date which shall be not less than one week after the individual has received appropriate notice of potential rights to benefits, provided, that no such claim may be filed after the 13 weeks subsequent to the end of the benefit year during which the week of unemployment occurred. In the event continuous jurisdiction is exercised under the provisions of the law, the department may, in its discretion, extend the period during which claims, with respect to week of unemployment affected by such redetermination, may be filed.

(3) When the benefit year expires on any day but Saturday, the effective date of the new claim is the Sunday of the current week in which the claim is filed even though it may overlap into the old benefit year up to six days. However, backdating shall not be allowed at the change of the calendar quarter if the backdating would cause an overlap of the same quarter in two base periods. When the overlap situation occurs, the effective date of the new claim may be postdated up to six days. If the claimant has benefits remaining on the old claim, the claimant may be eligible for benefits for that period by extending the old benefit year up to six days.

The claimant has established sufficient grounds to justify or excuse the delay in establishing the claim for benefits. She was given incorrect information from the Department. The request to backdate the claim to the week ending January 3, 2015 is granted.

DECISION:

The representative's January 23, 2015 (reference 01) decision is reversed. The claimant's request to backdate the claim to the week ending January 3, 2015 is granted.

Beth A. Scheetz
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

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