

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

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**NICOLE R KASTER**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 17A-UI-03019-CL-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 01/15/17  
Claimant: Appellant (4)**

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Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2) – Able & Available - Benefits Eligibility Conditions

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant filed an appeal from the March 9, 2017, (reference 04), unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits based upon claimant's availability for work. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled to be held on April 11, 2017. Claimant's appeal letter and the administrative record were sufficient to resolve the issue and no hearing was held.

**ISSUE:**

Is the claimant able to work and available for work effective February 19, 2017?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant gave birth on February 21, 2017. She was released to return to work with no restrictions on March 20, 2017.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant is able to work and available for work effective March 20, 2017.

Iowa Code § 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. 871-24.22(1)a provides:

Benefits eligibility conditions. For an individual to be eligible to receive benefits the department must find that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. The individual bears the burden of establishing that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work.

(1) Able to work. An individual must be physically and mentally able to work in some gainful employment, not necessarily in the individual's customary occupation, but which is engaged in by others as a means of livelihood.

a. Illness, injury or pregnancy. Each case is decided upon an individual basis, recognizing that various work opportunities present different physical requirements. A statement from a medical practitioner is considered prima facie evidence of the physical ability of the individual to perform the work required. A pregnant individual must meet the same criteria for determining ableness as do all other individuals.

Inasmuch as the treating physician has released the claimant to return to work, she has established her ability to work effective March 20, 2017.

**DECISION:**

The March 9, 2017, (reference 04) unemployment insurance decision is modified in favor of appellant. The claimant is able to work and available for work effective March 20, 2017. Benefits are allowed, provided she is otherwise eligible.

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Christine A. Louis  
Administrative Law Judge  
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Decision Dated and Mailed

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