

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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**MELVA J JOHNSTON**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 19A-UI-05124-DG-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 01/20/19**  
**Claimant: Appellant (4)**

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 June 14, 2019, (reference 07) decision that denied benefits because of a failure to report as directed. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was set for July 17, 2019. Claimant participated.

**ISSUE:**

Did the claimant fail to report as directed or offer a good cause reason for failure to do so?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having heard the testimony and having examined the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: On May 26, 2019, a notice was mailed to the claimant to be available for a call from IWD June 13, 2019 about her availability for work. She did not report because she was in Iowa City for three days with her grandson while he was undergoing a medical procedure. Claimant was unable to work during that week. Claimant returned home on June 15, 2019 and she resumed making at least two weekly job contacts each week after that date.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that 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.

In order for an individual to receive payment by direct deposit, the individual must provide the department with the appropriate bank routing code number and a checking or savings account number.

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.

The claimant was at the hospital with her grandson when she failed to be available to report on May 13, 2019. She has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed. Claimant was not able and available for work for the one week ending June 15, 2019. She has been making an adequate work search each week after that date.

#### **DECISION:**

The June 14, 2019, (reference 07) unemployment insurance decision is modified in favor of the appellant. The claimant has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed. She was attending to a medical emergency involving a close family member. Claimant was not able and available for work for the one week ending June 15, 2019 and benefits are denied for that one week period. Benefits are allowed beginning on June 16, 2019, provided she is otherwise eligible.

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Duane L. Golden  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

dlg/scn