

**BEFORE THE
EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD
Lucas State Office Building
Fourth floor
Des Moines, Iowa 50319**

KENYATHA D CAGE

Claimant

and

HY-VEE INC

Employer

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HEARING NUMBER: 21B-UI-09167

**EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD
DECISION**

NOTICE

THIS DECISION BECOMES FINAL unless (1) a **request for a REHEARING** is filed with the Employment Appeal Board within **20 days** of the date of the Board's decision or, (2) a **PETITION TO DISTRICT COURT** IS FILED WITHIN **30 days** of the date of the Board's decision.

A **REHEARING REQUEST** shall state the specific grounds and relief sought. If the rehearing request is denied, a petition may be filed in **DISTRICT COURT** within **30 days** of the date of the denial.

SECTION: 96.5-1

DECISION

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ARE DENIED

The Claimant appealed this case to the Employment Appeal Board. The members of the Employment Appeal Board reviewed the entire record. The Appeal Board finds the administrative law judge's decision is correct. The administrative law judge's Findings of Fact and Reasoning and Conclusions of Law are adopted by the Board as its own. The administrative law judge's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

We point out to the Claimant that although the Claimant is denied benefits under state unemployment law, **this does not bar receipt of certain special pandemic related benefits**. In fact, being ineligible from state unemployment benefits is a prerequisite to some of these benefits. Of particular interest to the Claimant is Pandemic Unemployment Assistance [PUA]. That law provides benefits to persons who are unavailable for work due to certain pandemic related reasons, or who lost work as a direct result of the Pandemic. The federal Department of Labor has instructed that **eligible persons would include**:

d) A child or other person in the household for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school or another facility that is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and such school or facility care is required for the individual to work

UIPL 16-20, Attachment 1.

(https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/UIPL/UIPL_16-20_Attachment_1.pdf).

In most cases, federal law requires all PUA claims to be backdated. The upshot is that if Claimant can make the necessary PUA showing Claimant may very well be eligible for PUA for any qualifying week. **Our ruling today is no bar to PUA.** Our ruling on the separation would mean if the Claimant can get PUA then once the Claimant comes off PUA the Claimant would have to requalify by earning 10 times the weekly benefit amount before Claimant could receive state unemployment benefits. Claimant might then receive regular state benefits if Claimant returns and offers services once that COVID leave ends but Claimant is not rehired. The Employer should note it can avoid charges by bringing the Claimant back to work at the end of the COVID leave.

Should the Claimant wish to apply for PUA, and the information on how to do so is found at: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>.

James M. Strohman

Ashley R. Koopmans

Myron R. Linn

AMG/slh