

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

ANTHONY J DIEMER
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 13A-UI-11884-S2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

A+ LAWN & LANDSCAPING INC
Employer

**OC: 09/15/13
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.5-2-a – Discharge for Misconduct

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Anthony Diemer (claimant) appealed a representative's October 16, 2013 decision (reference 02) that concluded he was not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits because he was discharged from work with A+ Lawn & Landscaping (employer) for failure to maintain a license that was required for his position. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was scheduled for November 15, 2013. The claimant participated personally. The employer participated by Ken Erwin, Landscape Manager.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant was separated from employment for any disqualifying reason.

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 hired on April 5, 2013, as a full-time tool crib foreman. The claimant signed for receipt of the employer's handbook on April 5, 2013. The handbook requires employees to maintain a drivers' license. On August 25, 2013, the claimant was charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (OWI). The claimant's drivers' license was revoked on September 5, 2013. The employer terminated the claimant on September 13, 2013.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow the administrative law judge concludes the claimant is not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

Iowa Code section 96.5-2-a provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

2. Discharge for misconduct. If the department finds that the individual has been discharged for misconduct in connection with the individual's employment:

a. The individual shall be disqualified for benefits until the individual has worked in and has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times the individual's weekly benefit amount, provided the individual is otherwise eligible.

871 IAC 24.32(1)a provides:

Discharge for misconduct.

(1) Definition.

a. "Misconduct" is defined as a deliberate act or omission by a worker which constitutes a material breach of the duties and obligations arising out of such worker's contract of employment. Misconduct as the term is used in the disqualification provision as being limited to conduct evincing such willful or wanton disregard of an employer's interest as is found in deliberate violation or disregard of standards of behavior which the employer has the right to expect of employees, or in carelessness or negligence of such degree of recurrence as to manifest equal culpability, wrongful intent or evil design, or to show an intentional and substantial disregard of the employer's interests or of the employee's duties and obligations to the employer. On the other hand mere inefficiency, unsatisfactory conduct, failure in good performance as the result of inability or incapacity, inadvertencies or ordinary negligence in isolated instances, or good faith errors in judgment or discretion are not to be deemed misconduct within the meaning of the statute.

The employer has the burden of proof in establishing disqualifying job misconduct. Cosper v. Iowa Department of Job Service, 321 N.W.2d 6 (Iowa 1982). The failure of an employee to maintain a license which he must have to perform the duties of the job is misconduct. The claimant's license was removed. His subsequent termination from employment was misconduct. He is not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

DECISION:

The representative's October 16, 2013, decision (reference 02) is affirmed. The claimant is not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits because the claimant was discharged from work for misconduct. Benefits are withheld until the claimant has worked in and has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times the claimant's weekly benefit amount, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

Beth A. Scheetz
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/pjs