

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

ERNEST D JOHNSON
Claimant

QPS EMPLOYMENT GROUP INC
Employer

APPEAL 18A-UI-08676-DG-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 09/10/17
Claimant: Respondent (1R)

Iowa Code § 96.5(1)j – Voluntary Quitting – Temporary Employment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer filed an appeal from the August 9, 2018, (reference 05) unemployment insurance decision that allowed benefits based upon voluntarily quitting the employment. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on September 5, 2018. Claimant participated. Employer participated through Mai Lor, Unemployment Specialist. Employer's Exhibit 1 was received.

ISSUE:

Did claimant quit by not reporting for additional work assignments within three business days of the end of the last assignment?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant was employed full-time as a temporary employee assigned at Lennox on April 13, 2018, and was separated from the assignment on July 19, 2018. A Lennox employee notified the claimant of the end of the assignment after the building where claimant had been working was destroyed by a tornado. After the assignment ended, the claimant reported to the employer within three working days to indicate availability for work, and request further assignment, as required by written policy. The claimant did receive a copy of the reassignment reporting policy on April 6, 2018. (Employer's Exhibit 1).

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant voluntarily left the employment with good cause attributable to the employer.

Iowa Code section 96.5(1)j provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

1. *Voluntary quitting.* If the individual has left work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the individual's employer, if so found by the

department. But the individual shall not be disqualified if the department finds that:

j. (1) The individual is a temporary employee of a temporary employment firm who notifies the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment and who seeks reassignment. Failure of the individual to notify the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment within three working days of the completion of each employment assignment under a contract of hire shall be deemed a voluntary quit unless the individual was not advised in writing of the duty to notify the temporary employment firm upon completion of an employment assignment or the individual had good cause for not contacting the temporary employment firm within three working days and notified the firm at the first reasonable opportunity thereafter.

(2) To show that the employee was advised in writing of the notification requirement of this paragraph, the temporary employment firm shall advise the temporary employee by requiring the temporary employee, at the time of employment with the temporary employment firm, to read and sign a document that provides a clear and concise explanation of the notification requirement and the consequences of a failure to notify. The document shall be separate from any contract of employment and a copy of the signed document shall be provided to the temporary employee.

(3) For the purposes of this paragraph:

(a) "*Temporary employee*" means an individual who is employed by a temporary employment firm to provide services to clients to supplement their workforce during absences, seasonal workloads, temporary skill or labor market shortages, and for special assignments and projects.

(b) "*Temporary employment firm*" means a person engaged in the business of employing temporary employees.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.26(19) provides:

Voluntary quit with good cause attributable to the employer and separations not considered to be voluntary quits. The following are reasons for a claimant leaving employment with good cause attributable to the employer:

(19) The claimant was employed on a temporary basis for assignment to spot jobs or casual labor work and fulfilled the contract of hire when each of the jobs was completed. An election not to report for a new assignment to work shall not be construed as a voluntary leaving of employment. The issue of a refusal of an offer of suitable work shall be adjudicated when an offer of work is made by the former employer. The provisions of Iowa Code section 96.5(3) and rule 24.24(96) are controlling in the determination of suitability of work. However, this subrule shall not apply to substitute school employees who are subject to the provisions of Iowa Code section 96.4(5) which denies benefits that are based on service in an educational institution when the individual declines or refuses to accept a new contract or reasonable assurance of continued employment status. Under this circumstance, the substitute school employee shall be considered to have voluntarily quit employment.

Each assignment with a temporary agency is considered a separate period of employment. The purpose of the statute is to provide notice to the temporary agency employer that the claimant is available for work at the conclusion of each temporary assignment so they may be reassigned and continue working. The plain language of the statute allows benefits for a claimant "who notifies the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment *and* who seeks reassignment." (Emphasis supplied.)

Since claimant contacted the employer within three working days of the notification of the end of the assignment, requested reassignment, and there was no work available, benefits are allowed, provided he is otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The August 9, 2018, (reference 05) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant's separation was attributable to the employer. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

REMAND: The issue of whether the claimant was offered suitable work by this employer is remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for a fact-finding interview and unemployment insurance decision.

Duane L. Golden
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dlg/scn