

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

JULIE CIA
Claimant

APPEAL 20A-UI-07191-CL-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

SWIFT PORK COMPANY
Employer

OC: 04/19/20
Claimant: Respondent (2)

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(26) – Able & Available – Availability Disqualifications
Iowa Code § 96.19(38)a & b – Total and Partial Unemployment
Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(2) – Same Base Period Employment
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment
PL 116-136, Sec. 2104(b) – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On June 30, 2020, the employer filed an appeal from the June 18, 2020, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that allowed benefits on a short-term layoff. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on August 5, 2020. Claimant did not register for the hearing and did not participate. Employer participated through Henry Bran.

ISSUES:

Is the claimant totally, partially, or temporarily unemployed?
Is the claimant able to and available for work?
Is the claimant still employed at the same hours and wages?
Is the employer's account subject to charge?
Was the claimant overpaid unemployment insurance benefits?
Is the claimant eligible for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant began working for employer on April 9, 2018. Claimant works for employer as a full-time general laborer.

Claimant was off work from April 14, 2020, through June 18, 2020. Claimant was absent from work and did not call in to report her absences. Claimant did not request a leave of absence. Employer assumes claimant was out of work because she was fearful about the COVID 19 pandemic. Employer allowed claimant to return to work on June 19, 2020. Employer had work available for claimant during the period of time she was absent.

Claimant received regular unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$4,591.00 for the eight weeks ending June 13, 2020. Claimant received FPUC benefits in the amount \$4,800.00 for the eight weeks ending June 13, 2020.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 96.19(38) provides:

"Total and partial unemployment".

- a. An individual shall be deemed "totally unemployed" in any week with respect to which no wages are payable to the individual and during which the individual performs no services.
- b. An individual shall be deemed partially unemployed in any week in which either of the following apply:
 - (1) While employed at the individual's then regular job, the individual works less than the regular full-time week and in which the individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.
 - (2) The individual, having been separated from the individual's regular job, earns at odd jobs less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.
- c. An individual shall be deemed temporarily unemployed if for a period, verified by the department, not to exceed four consecutive weeks, the individual is unemployed due to a plant shutdown, vacation, inventory, lack of work or emergency from the individual's regular job or trade in which the individual worked full-time and will again work full-time, if the individual's employment, although temporarily suspended, has not been terminated.

In order to receive regular unemployment insurance benefits under Chapter 96 of the Iowa Code, a totally unemployed claimant must establish he or she is able to and available for work. Iowa Code § 96.4(3).

In this case, the claimant was totally unemployed. So the issue is whether claimant is able to and available for work.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(3) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

- (3) If an individual places restrictions on employability as to the wages and type of work that is acceptable and when considering the length of unemployment, such individual has no reasonable expectancy of securing work, such individual will be deemed not to have met the availability requirements of Iowa Code section 96.4(3).

In this case, claimant put restrictions on her availability for work. Employer had work available for claimant. Claimant did not appear for work. Claimant is not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits.

The next issue in this case is whether the claimant was overpaid unemployment insurance benefits.

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) provides, in pertinent part:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits.

a. If an individual receives benefits for which the individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible, even though the individual acts in good faith and is not otherwise at fault, the benefits shall be recovered. The department in its discretion may recover the overpayment of benefits either by having a sum equal to the overpayment deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual or by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to the overpayment.

Since the decision disqualifying the claimant remains in effect, the claimant was overpaid \$4,591.00 in regular, state-funded unemployment insurance benefits. Claimant is required to repay those benefits.

The administrative law judge additionally concludes claimant has been overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.

PL116-136, Sec. 2104 provides, in pertinent part:

(b) Provisions of Agreement

(1) Federal pandemic unemployment compensation.--Any agreement under this section shall provide that the State agency of the State will make payments of regular compensation to individuals in amounts and to the extent that they would be determined if the State law of the State were applied, with respect to any week for which the individual is (disregarding this section) otherwise entitled under the State law to receive regular compensation, as if such State law had been modified in a manner such that the amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable for any week shall be equal to

(A) the amount determined under the State law (before the application of this paragraph), plus

(B) an additional amount of \$600 (in this section referred to as "Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation").

....

(f) Fraud and Overpayments

(2) Repayment.--In the case of individuals who have received amounts of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to which they were not entitled, the State shall require such individuals to repay the amounts of such Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to the State agency...

Here, the claimant is disqualified from receiving regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Accordingly, this also disqualifies claimant from receiving Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC). In addition to the regular UI benefits claimant received, claimant also received an additional \$4,800.00 in FPUC benefits for the eight weeks ending June 13, 2020. Claimant is required to repay those benefits.

DECISION:

The June 18, 2020, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. Claimant was not able to and available for work effective April 19, 2020. Regular unemployment insurance benefits are denied. Claimant is overpaid regular unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$4,591.00 and FPUC benefits in the amount of \$4,800.00 and is required to repay those benefits.



Christine A. Louis
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
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Fax (515)478-3528

August 10, 2020
Decision Dated and Mailed

cal/scn

Note to Claimant: This decision determines you are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. If you disagree with this decision you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision. Individuals who do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits due to disqualifying separations, but who are currently unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19 may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility under the program.** Additional information on how to apply for PUA can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>.