

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

STEPHANIE N MASSIE
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 12A-UI-07556-N

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 03/18/12
Claimant: Appellant (2)

Section 96.3-7 – Recovery of Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant appealed a representative's decision dated June 21, 2012, reference 03, which held claimant liable to repay \$968.00 in unemployment insurance benefits for twelve weeks between March 18, 2012 and June 9, 2012 based upon an able and available decision dated April 19, 2012 which disqualified the claimant from receiving benefits. After due notice was provided, a hearing was held in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on July 19, 2012. Appearing as the claimant's designated representative/witness was Michael Lee Massie, the claimant's husband.

ISSUE:

At issue in this matter is whether Stephanie Massie has been overpaid job insurance benefits.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: The overpayment issue in this case was created by a disqualification decision that has now been reversed. (See Appeal Number 12A-UI-07555-N).

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 96.3-7, as amended in 2008, provides:

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.

b. (1) If the department determines that an overpayment has been made, the charge for the overpayment against the employer's account shall be removed and the account shall be credited with an amount equal to the overpayment from the unemployment compensation trust fund and this credit shall include both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5. However, provided the benefits were not received as the result of fraud or willful misrepresentation by the individual, benefits shall not be recovered from an individual if the employer did not participate in the initial determination to award benefits pursuant to section 96.6, subsection 2, and an overpayment occurred because of a subsequent reversal on appeal regarding the issue of the individual's separation from employment. The employer shall not be charged with the benefits.

(2) An accounting firm, agent, unemployment insurance accounting firm, or other entity that represents an employer in unemployment claim matters and demonstrates a continuous pattern of failing to participate in the initial determinations to award benefits, as determined and defined by rule by the department, shall be denied permission by the department to represent any employers in unemployment insurance matters. This subparagraph does not apply to attorneys or counselors admitted to practice in the courts of this state pursuant to section 602.10101.

The administrative law judge concludes the claimant is not overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount \$968.00 pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.3-7 as the disqualification decision that created the overpayment decision has now been reversed.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated June 21, 2012, reference 03, is reversed. The claimant has not been overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$968.00.

Terence P. Nice
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

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