

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

CHRIS D KURTH Claimant IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT	68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI APPEAL NO. 15A-UI-13601-B2T ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DECISION OC: 01/11/15 Claimant: Appellant (2)
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Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)a & h(1) & (2) – Backdating

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated December 8, 2015, reference 01, which denied claimant's request to backdate a claim. After due notice, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled for and held on January 4, 2016. Claimant participated personally.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claim should be backdated.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant filed a claim for benefits with an effective date of November 29, 2015. Claimant asserts that the claim should be backdated because he called the IWD interactive phone number as he'd done for a number of years in the past. Claimant responded as he'd done in years past. After he'd finished answering all of the questions, a dial tone came at the end of the response. Claimant tried calling in his information again on multiple other occasions in the week of November 22, 2015 without success. The next week, claimant went to the local workforce office where he received assistance in getting his claim opened.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request to backdate his claim is allowed.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1), (2) and (3) provide:

Procedures for workers desiring to file a claim for benefits for unemployment insurance.

(1) Section 96.6 of the employment security law of Iowa states that claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such rules as the department prescribes. The department of workforce development accordingly prescribes:

h. Effective starting date for the benefit year.

(1) Filing for benefits shall be effective as of Sunday of the current calendar week in which, subsequent to the individual's separation from work, an individual reports in person at a workforce development center and registers for work in accordance with paragraph "a" of this rule.

(2) The claim may be backdated prior to the first day of the calendar week in which the claimant does report and file a claim for the following reasons:

Backdated prior to the week in which the individual reported if the individual presents to the department sufficient grounds to justify or excuse the delay;

There is scheduled filing in the following week because of a mass layoff;

The failure of the department to recognize the expiration of the claimant's previous benefit year;

The individual is given incorrect advice by a workforce development employee;

The claimant filed an interstate claim against another state which has been determined as ineligible;

Failure on the part of the employer to comply with the provisions of the law or of these rules;

Coercion or intimidation exercised by the employer to prevent the prompt filing of such claim;

Failure of the department to discharge its responsibilities promptly in connection with such claim, the department shall extend the period during which such claim may be filed to a date which shall be not less than one week after the individual has received appropriate notice of potential rights to benefits, provided, that no such claim may be filed after the 13 weeks subsequent to the end of the benefit year during which the week of unemployment occurred. In the event continuous jurisdiction is exercised under the provisions of the law, the department may, in its discretion, extend the period during which claims, with respect to week of unemployment affected by such redetermination, may be filed.

(3) When the benefit year expires on any day but Saturday, the effective date of the new claim is the Sunday of the current week in which the claim is filed even though it may overlap into the old benefit year up to six days. However, backdating shall not be allowed at the change of the calendar quarter if the backdating would cause an overlap of the same quarter in two base periods. When the overlap situation occurs, the effective date of the new claim may be postdated up to six days. If the claimant has benefits remaining on the old claim, the claimant may be eligible for benefits for that period by extending the old benefit year up to six days.

Claimant being unable to use the phone services of IWD, despite numerous efforts, is considered a good cause reason for having failed to file a claim during the first week of unemployment. Backdating is allowed.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated December 8, 2015, reference 01, is reversed. Claimant's request to backdate the claim is granted.

Blair A. Bennett
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

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