

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

STACI L RONFELDT
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 09A-UI-18475-LT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

MERCY MEDICAL SERVICES INC
Employer

OC: 10/11/09
Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code § 96.19(38)a & b – Total and Partial Unemployment
Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the November 30, 2009 (reference 01) decision that denied benefits. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was held on January 21, 2010. Claimant participated. Employer did not respond to the hearing notice instructions and did not participate.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether claimant is considered partially unemployed and if she is available for work.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant was hired to work part time, employer moved her to full-time hours until she requested part-time hours to attend school. She was working three days per week while in college between August 2008 and January 2009 and then two days per week from February 2009 through August 2009. She got her master's degree in May 2009 and her nurse practitioner license in July, 2009. As of August 17 the employer reduced her hours to one day for that four week schedule. It was not until August 30, 2009 when Denise White presented her with paperwork that she agreed to work on-call hours since they had replaced her regular hours with on-call nurse Kim. She was available for her regular part-time hours and more, even while looking for full-time employment as a nurse practitioner.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant is partially unemployed effective October 11, 2009 while she was available for work.

Iowa Code § 96.4-3 provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

3. The individual is able to work, is available for work, and is earnestly and actively seeking work. This subsection is waived if the individual is deemed partially unemployed, while employed at the individual's regular job, as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "b", unnumbered paragraph 1, or temporarily unemployed as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "c". The work search requirements of this subsection and the disqualification requirement for failure to apply for, or to accept suitable work of section 96.5, subsection 3 are waived if the individual is not disqualified for benefits under section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraph "h".

Iowa Code § 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, 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.

An individual shall be deemed partially unemployed in any week in which 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.

Iowa Code § 96.7-2-a(2) provides:

2. Contribution rates based on benefit experience.

a. (2) The amount of regular benefits plus fifty percent of the amount of extended benefits paid to an eligible individual shall be charged against the account of the employers in the base period in the inverse chronological order in which the employment of the individual occurred.

However, if the individual to whom the benefits are paid is in the employ of a base period employer at the time the individual is receiving the benefits, and the individual is receiving the same employment from the employer that the individual received during the individual's base period, benefits paid to the individual shall not be charged against the account of the employer. This provision applies to both contributory and

reimbursable employers, notwithstanding subparagraph (3) and section 96.8, subsection 5.

An employer's account shall not be charged with benefits paid to an individual who left the work of the employer voluntarily without good cause attributable to the employer or to an individual who was discharged for misconduct in connection with the individual's employment, or to an individual who failed without good cause, either to apply for available, suitable work or to accept suitable work with that employer, but shall be charged to the unemployment compensation fund. This paragraph applies to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

The amount of benefits paid to an individual, which is solely due to wage credits considered to be in an individual's base period due to the exclusion and substitution of calendar quarters from the individual's base period under section 96.23, shall be charged against the account of the employer responsible for paying the workers' compensation benefits for temporary total disability or during a healing period under section 85.33, section 85.34, subsection 1, or section 85A.17, or responsible for paying indemnity insurance benefits.

Because the claimant was employed less than her regular part-time hours, and those hours were given to another employee, her 'agreement' to accept on-call hours at that point was involuntary; thus she was considered partially unemployed. Benefits are allowed based upon reporting of weekly earnings. For whatever period the employer is not offering the same wages and hours as contemplated in the contract of hire, it may be liable for benefit charges to its account.

DECISION:

The November 30, 2009 (reference 01) decision is reversed. The claimant is partially unemployed and benefits are allowed, provided she is otherwise eligible. The account of employer (account number 197282), may be liable for charges.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/css