

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

JOHNNY R OLSEN
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 13A-UI-01160-LT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 11/25/12
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) - Recovery of Benefit Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant appealed the January 23, 2013 (reference 01), decision that concluded the claimant was overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$1,362.00 for the six-week period ending January 5, 2013 as a result of an agency error duplicating payments on two claim years. A telephone hearing was held on February 26, 2013, pursuant to due notice. The claimant participated.

ISSUE:

Is the claimant overpaid benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The overpayment issue in this case was created by an agency error overpayment between the EUC benefits properly paid at \$307.00 per week between November 25, 2012 and January 5, 2013 and the regular UI benefits paid at \$227.00 per week for that same time period. Claimant did receive the regular UI benefits for that period in the gross amount of \$1,362.00.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The administrative law judge concludes claimant has been overpaid benefits for the period in question.

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 understands the claimant's frustration about the agency error and incorrect information provided by a claims representative, but must conclude that he has been overpaid, through no fault of his own, unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$1,362.00 pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.3(7) because of the agency error.

DECISION:

The January 23, 2013 (reference 01) decision is affirmed. The claimant has been overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the gross amount of \$1,362.00 to which he was not entitled and those benefits must be recovered in accordance with Iowa law.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/pjs