

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU**

TRAVIS J KRAMER
Claimant

LEGAL AID
Employer

APPEAL 23A-UI-03916-PT
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 03/29/20
Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code § 96.5(13) – Disqualification due to Outstanding Fraud Overpayment
Iowa Code § 96.16(4) – Offenses and Misrepresentation

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from the April 6, 2023 (reference 09) unemployment insurance decision that concluded the claimant was ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits due to an outstanding fraud overpayment balance.

The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A hearing was held at the IowaWORKS Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on May 25, 2023. Appeal numbers 23A-UI-03913-PT, 23A-UI-03914-PT, 23A-UI-03915-PT, 23A-UI-03916-PT, and 23A-UI-04356-PT were heard together and created one record. Claimant, Travis J. Kramer, participated personally and was represented by Attorney Morgan Fritz. IWD was represented by Attorney Jeffrey Koncsol and participated through Investigator II Debbie Rumbaugh. IWD Exhibits 1 through 8 were admitted into the record. Claimant's exhibits A and B were admitted into the record. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUE:

Whether the claimant is ineligible for benefits due to an outstanding fraud overpayment balance.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of March 29, 2020. On April 6 and April 26, 2023, IWD issued decisions finding claimant was overpaid regular unemployment insurance (reference 06 and 10), Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (reference 07), and Lost Wage Assistance Payments (reference 08). The decisions imposed a 15% administrative penalty due to misrepresentation. Claimant appealed the decisions. The decisions were modified in favor of the claimant/appellant to remove the 15% administrative penalty due to insufficient evidence of fraud. See Appeal numbers 23A-UI-03913-PT; 23A-UI-03914-PT; 23A-UI-03915-PT; and 23A-UI-04356-PT.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes:

Iowa Code section 96.5(13) provides:

Overpayment resulting in disqualification. If the department finds that an individual has received benefits by reason of misrepresentation pursuant to section 96.16, such individual shall be disqualified for benefits until the balance of the benefits received by the individual due to misrepresentation, including all penalties, interest, and lien fees, is paid in full.

Claimant does not owe a fraud overpayment balance. Benefits are allowed provided claimant is otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The April 6, 2023 (reference 09) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. Claimant is not disqualified from receiving benefits due to an unpaid fraud overpayment balance and benefits are allowed, provided claimant is otherwise eligible.



Patrick B. Thomas
Administrative Law Judge

June 7, 2023
Decision Dated and Mailed

pbt/scn

APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board
4th Floor – Lucas Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515)281-7191
Online: eab.iowa.gov**

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday.

AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL STATE CLEARLY:

- 1) The name, address, and social security number of the claimant.
- 2) A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
- 3) That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
- 4) The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> or by contacting the District Court Clerk of Court <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Note to Parties: YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds.

Note to Claimant: It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

SERVICE INFORMATION:

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN. Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board
4th Floor – Lucas Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515)281-7191
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal.

UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiriera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que se encuentra en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> o comunicándose con el Tribunal de Distrito Secretario del tribunal <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Nota para las partes: USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

Nota para el reclamante: es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.