

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

KATHERINE F WHITE
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 11A-UI-02826-MT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

GELITA USA INC
KIND & KNOX DIV-GELATIN INC-ADP
Employer

OC: 06/13/10
Claimant: Respondent (1)

Section 96.4-3 – Able and Available

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Employer filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated March 1, 2011, reference 04, which held claimant able and available for work. After due notice, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled for and held on March 30, 2011. Claimant participated personally and was represented by Dennis Mahr, Attorney at Law. Employer participated by Lynn Schlessner, Human Resource Generalist; Dean Wood, Head Total Quality Management and Jeff Tolsma, Vice President Business Support. Exhibits One, Two and A were admitted into evidence.

ISSUE:

The issue in this matter is whether claimant is able and available for work.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant was off work for a work-related injury. Claimant was discharged from medical care on or before February 13, 2011. Claimant has permanent restrictions of occasional lifting of 10 pounds and frequent lifting of five pounds. Claimant is capable of working full-time hours. Claimant has the ability to work at jobs for which she has prior training and experience. Claimant is earnestly and actively seeking full-time employment effective February 13, 2011.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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".

871 IAC 24.22(1)a provides:

Benefits eligibility conditions. For an individual to be eligible to receive benefits the department must find that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. The individual bears the burden of establishing that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work.

(1) Able to work. An individual must be physically and mentally able to work in some gainful employment, not necessarily in the individual's customary occupation, but which is engaged in by others as a means of livelihood.

a. Illness, injury or pregnancy. Each case is decided upon an individual basis, recognizing that various work opportunities present different physical requirements. A statement from a medical practitioner is considered prima facie evidence of the physical ability of the individual to perform the work required. A pregnant individual must meet the same criteria for determining ableness as do all other individuals.

871 IAC 24.23(35) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

(35) Where the claimant is not able to work and is under the care of a physician and has not been released as being able to work.

Inasmuch as the injury was work-related and the treating physician has released the claimant to return to work, the claimant has established the ability to work. Work exists for which claimant has prior training and experience that fits her permanent restrictions. Benefits shall be allowed effective February 13, 2011.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated March 1 2011, reference 04, is affirmed. Claimant is eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits, effective February 13, 2011, provided claimant meets all other eligibility requirements.

Marlon Mormann
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

mdm/pjs