

(A) the payment of such pandemic emergency unemployment compensation was without fault on the part of any such individual; and

(B) such repayment would be contrary to equity and good conscience.

PL116-136, Sec. 2104(f)(2); 2107(e)(2). In this case the Claimant was paid **PEUC**. We now consider whether the PEUC overpayment can be waived.

In deciding the question of fault, we will consider factors such as whether a material statement or representation was made by the Claimant in connection with the application for benefits, whether the Claimant knew or should have known that a fact was material and failed to disclose it, whether the Claimant should have known the Claimant was not eligible for benefits, and whether the overpayment was otherwise directly caused by the knowing actions of the Claimant. Cf. 871 IAC 24.50(7) (setting out factors for similar issue under TEUC from 2002). In deciding equity and good conscience we utilize the federal directives by considering the following:

- It would cause financial hardship to the person for whom it is sought; or
- The recipient of the overpayment can show (regardless of their financial circumstances) that due to the notice that such payment would be made or because of the incorrect payment either they have relinquished a valuable right or changed positions for the worse; or
- Recovery would be unconscionable under the circumstances.

[UIPL 20-21](#), p. 6-7 (DOL ETA 5/5/2021).

Applying these factors to the totality of the circumstances in this case including that there is no evidence of material misrepresentation, we find on this individualized basis that the **PEUC overpayment** should be waived on the ground that the Claimant's knowing actions were not directly at fault for the overpayment, and recovery would be unconscionable.

The Employer should note that the Employer will not be charged for any waived **PEUC**.

If after today the Claimant should receive an overpayment decision concerning the overpayment(s) we have waived then the Claimant should appeal that decision. The Claimant should retain our decision to present to IWD in response to any such decision. The Claimant likewise should present this order to IWD if the Claimant should receive a bill for a waived overpayment.

DECISION:

The decision of the Administrative Law Judge dated February 7, 2022 is **AFFIRMED AS MODIFIED IN THE CLAIMANT'S FAVOR** but with **NO EFFECT ON THE EMPLOYER**.

The overpayment of \$6,526 in PEUC benefits is hereby waived, and the Claimant has no obligation to pay back those benefits. The Claimant continues to be obliged to repay any overpayment in state benefits, including extended benefits, that has been or will be assessed since the law does not permit us to waive the regular state benefit or extended benefit overpayments. The Employer will not be charged for waiver of PEUC since PEUC is a federally funded benefit. In all other respects, the decision of the Administrative Law Judge is affirmed.

James M. Strohman

Ashley R. Koopmans

DISSENTING OPINION OF MYRON R. LINN:

I respectfully dissent from the majority decision of the Employment Appeal Board. After careful review of the record, I would affirm the decision of the administrative law judge without modification.

Myron R. Linn

AMG/fnv