

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

CHRISTOPHER J SKELTON
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 10A-UI-02443-S2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

BROKERS CLEARING HOUSE
Employer

OC: 01/17/10
Claimant: Appellant (2/R)

Iowa Code § 96.5(1)d – Voluntary Leaving (Illness/Injury)

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Christopher Skelton (claimant) appealed a representative's February 12, 2010 decision (reference 01) that concluded he was not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits because he voluntarily quit work with Brokers Clearing House (employer). After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was scheduled for March 30, 2010. The claimant participated personally. The employer participated by Barbara Crowley, President/Chief Executive Officer, and Mark Arends, Controller.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant was separated from employment for any disqualifying reason.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant was hired on July 31, 2006, as a full-time vice president. The employer told the claimant that he had medical issues related to stress at work. The employer could not accommodate the claimant. The claimant resigned effective January 20, 2010. Continued work was available had the claimant not resigned.

In February 2010, the claimant's physician told the claimant not to work.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant voluntarily left the employment with good cause attributable to the employer.

Iowa Code § 96.5-1 provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

1. Voluntary quitting. If the individual has left work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the individual's employer, if so found by the department.

871 IAC 24.26(6)b provides:

Voluntary quit with good cause attributable to the employer and separations not considered to be voluntary quits. The following are reasons for a claimant leaving employment with good cause attributable to the employer:

(6) Separation because of illness, injury or pregnancy.

b. Employment related separation. The claimant was compelled to leave employment because of an illness, injury, or allergy condition that was attributable to the employment. Factors and circumstances directly connected with employment which caused or aggravated the illness, injury, allergy, or disease to the employee which made it impossible for the employee to continue in employment because of serious danger to the employee's health may be held to be an involuntary termination of employment and constitute good cause attributable to the employer. The claimant will be eligible for benefits if compelled to leave employment as a result of an injury suffered on the job.

In order to be eligible under this paragraph "b" an individual must present competent evidence showing adequate health reasons to justify termination; before quitting have informed the employer of the work-related health problem and inform the employer that the individual intends to quit unless the problem is corrected or the individual is reasonably accommodated. Reasonable accommodation includes other comparable work which is not injurious to the claimant's health and for which the claimant must remain available.

An individual who voluntarily leaves their employment due to an alleged work-related illness or injury must first give notice to the employer of the anticipated reasons for quitting in order to give the employer an opportunity to remedy the situation or offer an accommodation. *Suluki v. Employment Appeal Board*, 503 N.W.2d 402 (Iowa 1993). Inasmuch as the claimant did give the employer an opportunity to resolve his complaints prior to leaving employment, the separation was with good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are allowed.

The issue of whether the claimant is able and available for work is remanded for determination.

DECISION:

The representative's February 12, 2010 decision (reference 01) is reversed. The claimant voluntarily left his employment with good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are allowed. The issue of whether the claimant is able and available for work is remanded for determination.

Beth A. Scheetz
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/pjs