

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

AARON P LANGSTON
Claimant

APPEAL 15A-UI-11963-SC-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 01/04/15
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(1) – Filing Claims
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)a & h(1) & (2) – Backdating

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the October 20, 2015 (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that denied the request to backdate the claim for benefits prior to October 18, 2015. After due notice was issued, a hearing was scheduled to be held by telephone conference call on November 13, 2015. The claimant participated on his own behalf.

ISSUE:

Should the claim be backdated prior to October 18, 2015?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant filed a claim for benefits with an effective date of January 4, 2015 and an additional claim effective October 18, 2015. The claimant has presented good cause to backdate the claim to October 11, 2015 because the Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook is insufficiently clear about the deadline by which to file an additional claim. He attempted to file his claim for the week during which he was laid off but was unable to file a claim over the weekend so filed the following work week.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request to backdate the claim is granted.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1), (2) and (3) provide:

Procedures for workers desiring to file a claim for benefits for unemployment insurance.

- (1) Section 96.6 of the employment security law of Iowa states that claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such rules as the department prescribes. The department of workforce development accordingly prescribes:
- h. Effective starting date for the benefit year.

(1) Filing for benefits shall be effective as of Sunday of the current calendar week in which, subsequent to the individual's separation from work, an individual reports in person at a workforce development center and registers for work in accordance with paragraph "a" of this rule.

(2) The claim may be backdated prior to the first day of the calendar week in which the claimant does report and file a claim for the following reasons:

Backdated prior to the week in which the individual reported if the individual presents to the department sufficient grounds to justify or excuse the delay;

There is scheduled filing in the following week because of a mass layoff;

The failure of the department to recognize the expiration of the claimant's previous benefit year;

The individual is given incorrect advice by a workforce development employee;

The claimant filed an interstate claim against another state which has been determined as ineligible;

Failure on the part of the employer to comply with the provisions of the law or of these rules;

Coercion or intimidation exercised by the employer to prevent the prompt filing of such claim;

Failure of the department to discharge its responsibilities promptly in connection with such claim, the department shall extend the period during which such claim may be filed to a date which shall be not less than one week after the individual has received appropriate notice of potential rights to benefits, provided, that no such claim may be filed after the 13 weeks subsequent to the end of the benefit year during which the week of unemployment occurred. In the event continuous jurisdiction is exercised under the provisions of the law, the department may, in its discretion, extend the period during which claims, with respect to week of unemployment affected by such redetermination, may be filed.

(3) When the benefit year expires on any day but Saturday, the effective date of the new claim is the Sunday of the current week in which the claim is filed even though it may overlap into the old benefit year up to six days. However, backdating shall not be allowed at the change of the calendar quarter if the backdating would cause an overlap of the same quarter in two base periods. When the overlap situation occurs, the effective date of the new claim may be postdated up to six days. If the claimant has benefits remaining on the old claim, the claimant may be eligible for benefits for that period by extending the old benefit year up to six days.

The Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook that the claimant would have received in January 2015 indicated a claim effective date is the Sunday of the week in which the application was filed. There was no instruction that a new, additional, or reopened claim must be filed before Saturday of the week of separation or unemployment. Thus, the delay in filing in person at the local office within the next business week and because he was unable to obtain assistance by telephone during the same week are considered good cause reasons for having failed to file a claim during the first week of unemployment. The claimant should be aware there is a new version of the Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook available online or at his local office which was issued this year and more accurately describes the process for reactivating a claim.

DECISION:

The October 20, 2015 (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant's request to backdate the claim to October 11, 2015 is granted, as are the retroactive benefits for the same time period. The claimant did not earn any gross wages for that week.

Stephanie R. Callahan
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

src/can