

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND
APPEALS
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Appeal Number: 05-IWDUI-004
OC: 01/18/04
Claimant: Appellant (1)

This Decision Shall Become Final, unless within fifteen (15) days from the date below, you or any interested party appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by submitting either a signed letter or a signed written Notice of Appeal, directly to the ***Employment Appeal Board, 4th Floor Lucas Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.***

DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

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.

PATRICIA A REYES
233 SOUTH SECOND STREET
MISSOURI VALLEY IA 51555

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.

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
INVESTIGATIONS AND RECOVERY
1000 EAST GRAND AVENUE
DES MOINES IA 50319-0209

YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in this appeal or you may obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to the Department . 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. It is important that you file your claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

DAN ANDERSON, IWD

(Administrative Law Judge)

January 28, 2005

(Decision Dated & Mailed)

Section 96.16-4 - Misrepresentation
Section 96.3-7 - Recovery of Overpayments

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from an Iowa Workforce Development decision dated December 21, 2004, reference 03, which held that the claimant was overpaid unemployment benefits in the amount of \$1,169.00, because of misrepresentation in failing to report wages earned with Kester Contracting for the 12-weeks ending July 3, 2004.

After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on January 24, 2005. The claimant did not participate. Iowa Workforce Development, Investigation and Recovery participated by Investigator, John Doidge.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony of the witnesses and having examined all of the evidence in the record, finds: The claimant filed a claim for unemployment benefits with an effective date of January 18, 2004.

A wage cross-match audit was done on the claimant's claim for the second quarter of 2004. A representative of Kester Contracting reported to the department the hours worked and the wages earned by the claimant for a review period from March 28, to July 3, 2004. The department compared the employer's report of wages for the claimant against her benefit payment record for the same weeks.

The claimant report no wages for the 4-weeks from March 28, 2004 to May 8, 2004, while the employer reported wages ranging from a low of \$122 to a high of \$183. The claimant received unemployment benefits of \$242 for each of the 4-weeks, she is overpaid those benefits ranging from a low of \$62 to a high of \$123 due to earning excessive wages.

The claimant did report some wages ranging from a low of \$67 to a high of \$162 for the 8-weeks ending July 3, 2004. The employer reported the claimant had gross wages ranging from a low of \$155 to a high of \$270 for the same weeks. The department determined the claimant had some overpayment in each of the 8-weeks ranging from a low of \$47 to a high of \$140 due to earning excessive wages.

Investigator Doidge mailed a notice to the claimant on December 3, 2004 regarding the \$1,169 overpayment, but she failed to respond. Doidge concluded the claimant misrepresented her claims by answering no to the question whether she worked the 4-weeks ending May 8, 2004, and substantially under-reporting her wages for the subsequent, 8-weeks.

The claimant failed to respond to the hearing notice.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue is whether the claimant is overpaid benefits \$1,169.00, and if so whether it is the result of misrepresentation.

Iowa Code Section 96.16-4 provides:

4. Misrepresentation. An individual who, by reason of the nondisclosure or misrepresentation by the individual or by another of a material fact, has received any sum as benefits under this chapter while any conditions for the receipt of benefits imposed by this chapter were not fulfilled in the individual's case, or while the individual was disqualified from receiving benefits, shall, in the discretion of the department, either be liable to have the sum deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual under this chapter or shall be liable to repay to the department for the unemployment compensation fund, a sum equal to the amount so received by the individual. If the department seeks to recover the amount of the benefits by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to that amount, the department may file a lien with the county recorder in favor of the state on the individual's property and rights to property, whether real or personal. The amount of the lien shall be collected in a manner similar to the provisions for the collection of past-due contributions in

section 96.14, subsection 3.

Iowa Code Section 96.3-7 provides:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits. If an individual receives benefits for which the individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible, even though the individual acts in good faith and is not otherwise at fault, the benefits shall be recovered. The division of job service in its discretion may recover the overpayment of benefits either by having a sum equal to the overpayment deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual or by having the individual pay to the division a sum equal to the overpayment.

If the division determines that an overpayment has been made, the charge for the overpayment against the employer's account shall be removed and the account shall be credited with an amount equal to the overpayment from the unemployment compensation trust fund and this credit shall include both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

The administrative law judge concludes that the claimant is overpaid benefits \$1,169 for the 12-weeks ending July 3, 2004 pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.16-4. The claimant referenced her pay-stubs in her appeal letter, but she did not submit them to the department or for this hearing, as evidence that her wages were miss-reported. The claimant misrepresented her claim by denying that she worked four of the twelve weeks she incurred an overpayment.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated December 21, 2004, reference 03, is **AFFIRMED**. The claimant is overpaid benefits \$1,169 due to misrepresentation.

rls