

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

BERNARD R LINK
2487 COUNTY ROAD 103
WEST POINT IA
Claimant

WAL-MART STORES INC
Employer

APPEAL 15A-UI-02862-KCT
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION

OC: 01/04/15
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.5(7) – Receipt of Vacation Pay/PTO
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.10 – Employer/Representative Participation Fact-finding Interview

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the February 23, 2015, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that found he had been overpaid benefits as a result of incorrectly reporting vacation pay. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on April 2, 2015. The claimant participated. Although Brent Izzard, an employee of Wal-Mart, had originally registered to participate, he was unavailable at the time of the hearing and did not respond to a telephone message from the undersigned administrative law judge. Accordingly, the employer did not participate. The claimant submitted documents which were admitted into evidence as Exhibits A-B.

ISSUES:

The issues are whether claimant received vacation pay at separation, if that amount is deductible from benefits, if so, for what period, and if there is a resulting overpayment of benefits.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant was employed full-time as a truck driver and was separated from employment due to a temporary lay-off. He had accrued one vacation day, which he took, and for which he was paid during the week of January 4, 2015 through January 10, 2015. The claimant was separated on January 6, 2015, and received vacation pay in the amount of \$386.00. The employer designated the period of time to which the vacation pay was to be applied as January 4, 2015 through January 10, 2015. The claimant was overpaid \$386.00 in unemployment insurance benefits.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant received vacation pay which was deducted for the correct period and the claimant was overpaid benefits.

Iowa Code § 96.5-7 provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits: ...

7. Vacation pay.

a. When an employer makes a payment or becomes obligated to make a payment to an individual for vacation pay, or for vacation pay allowance, or as pay in lieu of vacation, such payment or amount shall be deemed "wages" as defined in section 96.19, subsection 41, and shall be applied as provided in paragraph "c" hereof.

b. When, in connection with a separation or layoff of an individual, the individual's employer makes a payment or payments to the individual, or becomes obligated to make a payment to the individual as, or in the nature of, vacation pay, or vacation pay allowance, or as pay in lieu of vacation, and within ten calendar days after notification of the filing of the individual's claim, designates by notice in writing to the department the period to which the payment shall be allocated; provided, that if such designated period is extended by the employer, the individual may again similarly designate an extended period, by giving notice in writing to the department not later than the beginning of the extension of the period, with the same effect as if the period of extension were included in the original designation. The amount of a payment or obligation to make payment, is deemed "wages" as defined in section 96.19, subsection 41, and shall be applied as provided in paragraph "c" of this subsection 7.

c. Of the wages described in paragraph "a" (whether or not the employer has designated the period therein described), or of the wages described in paragraph "b", if the period therein described has been designated by the employer as therein provided, a sum equal to the wages of such individual for a normal workday shall be attributed to, or deemed to be payable to the individual with respect to, the first and each subsequent workday in such period until such amount so paid or owing is exhausted. Any individual receiving or entitled to receive wages as provided herein shall be ineligible for benefits for any week in which the sums, so designated or attributed to such normal workdays, equal or exceed the individual's weekly benefit amount. If the amount so designated or attributed as wages is less than the weekly benefit amount of such individual, the individual's benefits shall be reduced by such amount.

d. Notwithstanding contrary provisions in paragraphs "a", "b", and "c", if an individual is separated from employment and is scheduled to receive vacation payments during the period of unemployment attributable to the employer and if the employer does not designate the vacation period pursuant to paragraph "b", then payments made by the employer to the individual or an obligation to make a payment by the employer to the individual for vacation pay, vacation pay allowance or pay in lieu of vacation shall not be deemed wages as defined in section 96.19, subsection 41, for any period in excess of one week and such payments or the value of such obligations shall not be deducted for any period in excess of one week from the unemployment benefits the individual is otherwise entitled to receive under this chapter. However, if the employer designates more than one week as the vacation period pursuant to paragraph "b", the vacation pay,

vacation pay allowance, or pay in lieu of vacation shall be considered wages and shall be deducted from benefits.

e. If an employer pays or is obligated to pay a bonus to an individual at the same time the employer pays or is obligated to pay vacation pay, a vacation pay allowance, or pay in lieu of vacation, the bonus shall not be deemed wages for purposes of determining benefit eligibility and amount, and the bonus shall not be deducted from unemployment benefits the individual is otherwise entitled to receive under this chapter.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.16(3) provides:

(3) If the employer fails to properly notify the department within ten days after the notification of the filing of the claim that an amount of vacation pay, either paid or owed, is to be applied to a specific vacation period, the entire amount of the vacation pay shall be applied to the one-week period starting on the first workday following the last day worked as defined in subrule 24.16(4). However, if the individual does not claim benefits after layoff for the normal employer workweek immediately following the last day worked, then the entire amount of the vacation pay shall not be deducted from any week of benefits.

Because the employer did designate a time period to which the vacation pay is to apply, the entire amount was correctly deducted from the first week of benefits following the separation.

Iowa Code § 96.3-7 provides in pertinent part:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits.

a. 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 department 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 department a sum equal to the overpayment.

b. (1) If the department 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 has been overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$386.00 pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.3(7). The representative's decision calculation is correct.

DECISION:

The February 23, 2015 (reference 01) decision is affirmed. Vacation pay was correctly deducted from benefits. The claimant was overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$386.00.

Kristin A. Collinson
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

kac/pjs