

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Section  
1000 East Grand—Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
68-0157 (7-97) – 3091078 - EI

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**Appeal Number: 04A-UI-01877-DT**  
**OC: 11/30/03 R: 03**  
**Claimant: Respondent (2)**

**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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor—Lucas Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.**

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.

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.

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 Workforce Development. 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.

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(Administrative Law Judge)

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(Decision Dated & Mailed)

Section 96.5-1-d – Voluntary Leaving/Illness or Injury  
871 IAC 24.25(35) – Separation Due to Illness or Injury

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Excel Corporation (employer) appealed a representative's February 9, 2004 decision (reference 03) that concluded Travis L. Carruthers (claimant) was qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on March 11, 2004. The claimant failed to respond to the hearing notice and provide a telephone number at which he could be reached for the hearing and did not participate in the hearing. Nick Statler appeared on the employer's behalf. Based on the evidence, the arguments of the employer, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

ISSUE:

Did the claimant voluntarily quit for a good cause attributable to the employer?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The claimant started working for the employer on January 5, 2004. He was to work full time as production worker on the first shift in the export department of the employer's Ottumwa, Iowa meat processing facility. He worked his shift on January 5 and January 6, was a no-call/no-show on January 7, and worked slightly over two hours on January 8. He did not report for scheduled work after that date, including January 9, January 10, and January 12 through January 15. On January 16 he provided a written notice of resignation, stating that a "right hand injury [at another employer] was acting up." No evidence was provided that a doctor had recommended that the claimant quit or that the work at the employer was aggravating the prior condition and that he required or requested some accommodation.

The claimant established a claim for unemployment insurance benefits effective November 30, 2003. He filed an additional claim effective January 11, 2004. The claimant effectively quit his employment on January 8. The claimant has received unemployment insurance benefits after the separation from employment in the amount of \$175.00. This amount is included in an amount concluded as overpaid in a separate decision relating to a separation from another employer in 04A-UI-00001-S2T.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue in this case is whether the claimant voluntarily quit, and if so, whether it was for good cause attributable to the employer.

Iowa Code Section 96.5-1-d 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. But the individual shall not be disqualified if the department finds that:

d. The individual left employment because of illness, injury or pregnancy upon the advice of a licensed and practicing physician, and upon knowledge of the necessity for absence immediately notified the employer, or the employer consented to the absence, and after recovering from the illness, injury or pregnancy, when recovery was certified by a licensed and practicing physician, the individual returned to the employer and offered to perform services and the individual's regular work or comparable suitable work was not available, if so found by the department, provided the individual is otherwise eligible.

871 IAC 24.25(35) provides:

(35) The claimant left because of illness or injury which was not caused or aggravated by the employment or pregnancy and failed to:

(a) Obtain the advice of a licensed and practicing physician;

(b) Obtain certification of release for work from a licensed and practicing physician;

- (c) Return to the employer and offer services upon recovery and certification for work by a licensed and practicing physician; or
- (d) Fully recover so that the claimant could perform all of the duties of the job.

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 the 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.

The claimant did not demonstrate that the medical reason for quitting was caused or aggravated by the employment, that he sought accommodation, or that he quit on the advice of a physician. Accordingly, the separation is without good cause attributable to the employer and benefits must be denied.

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 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.

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.

Because the claimant's separation was disqualifying, benefits were paid to which the claimant was not entitled. Those benefits must be recovered in accordance with the provisions of Iowa law.

DECISION:

The representative's February 9, 2004 decision (reference 03) is reversed. The claimant voluntarily left his employment without good cause attributable to the employer. As of January 8, 2004, benefits are withheld until such time as the claimant has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times his weekly benefit amount, provided he is otherwise eligible. After the separation from this employer, the claimant was overpaid benefits in the amount of \$175.00, a sum already included in a previously determined overpayment.

ld/b