

**IN THE IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

ALLEN M HARGER
Claimant

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

APPEAL 24A-UI-05008-JT-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**OC: 03/17/24
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On May 23, 2024, Allen Harger (claimant) filed a timely appeal from the May 14, 2024 (reference 05) decision that held Mr. Harger was overpaid \$455.00 in benefits for the week that ended April 13, 2024, due to a May 1, 2024 decision that disqualified Mr. Harger for benefits for that week based on an inadequate work search. After due notice was issued, the appeal hearing was held on June 12, 2024. Mr. Harger participated. Iowa Workforce Development did not appear and did not participate. Exhibit A was received into evidence. The administrative law judge took official notice of the following agency administrative records: The April 2, 2024 (reference 03) decision, the May 1, 2024 (reference 04) decision, the administrative law judge decisions in Appeal Numbers 24AUI05006JTT and 24AUI05007JTT, DBRO and KCCO.

ISSUE:

Whether Mr. Harger was overpaid \$455.00 in benefits for the week that ended April 13, 2024, due to a May 1, 2024 decision that disqualified Mr. Harger for benefits for that week based on an inadequate work search.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

Allen Harger (claimant) established an original claim for benefits that was effective March 17, 2024. Iowa Workforce Development set the weekly benefit amount at \$455.00. Mr. Harger received benefits that included \$455.00 in benefits for the week that ended April 13, 2024.

On May 1, 2024, Iowa Workforce Development issued a reference 04 decision that disqualified Mr. Harger for benefits for the week that ended April 13, 2024, based on the IWD representative's conclusion that Mr. Harger did not meet the reemployment activities requirement during that week and had earlier been warned about the requirement. The reference 04 decision remains in effect. See Appeal Number 24AUI05007JTT.

IWD records reflect that IWD offset \$455.00 in benefits that would otherwise have been disbursed to Mr. Harger for the week that ended May 11, 2024 to recover what IWD deemed to be an overpayment of benefits for the week that ended April 13, 2024.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 96.3(7)(a) provides in relevant part as follows:

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.

Because the May 1, 2024 (reference 04) decision disqualified Mr. Harger for benefits for the week that ended April 13, 2024, and because the reference 04 decision remains in effect, the \$455.00 in benefits disbursed to Mr. Harger for the week that ended April 13, 2024 is an overpayment of benefits. Mr. Harger is required to repay the overpaid benefits. IWD records reflect that IWD recovered the overpayment through an offset of \$455.00 in benefits that would otherwise have been disbursed to Mr. Harger for the week that ended May 11, 2024.

DECISION:

The May 14, 2024 (reference 05) decision is AFFIRMED. The claimant was overpaid \$455.00 in benefits for the week that ended April 13, 2024, due to a May 1, 2024 (reference 04) decision that disqualified the claimant for benefits for that week. The claimant is required to repay the overpaid benefits. IWD records reflect that IWD recovered the overpayment through an offset of \$455.00 in benefits that would otherwise have been disbursed to the claimant for the week that ended May 11, 2024.



James E. Timberland
Administrative Law Judge

June 17, 2024
Decision Dated and Mailed

scn

APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board
6200 Park Ave Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Fax: (515)281-7191
Online: eab.iowa.gov**

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.

AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL 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.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf>.

Note to Parties: YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or 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.

Note to Claimant: It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

SERVICE INFORMATION:

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN. Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board
6200 Park Ave Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Fax: (515)281-7191
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal.

UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiriera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que está en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf>.

Nota para las partes: USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

Nota para el reclamante: es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.