

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

JAMIE K FLATHERS
Claimant

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE INC
Employer

APPEAL 20A-UI-11112-DG-T
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 03/29/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quitting

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated September 9, 2020, (reference 02) that held claimant ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After due notice, a hearing was scheduled for and held on November 2, 2020. Claimant participated. Employer participated by Jenny Brown, Human Resources Director. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record including the fact-finding documents.

ISSUE:

The issue in this matter is whether claimant quit for good cause attributable to employer?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant last worked for employer on April 10, 2020. Claimant left the employment on that date because she did not have a daycare provider available to watch her child.

Claimant began working for employer as a full-time registered nurse on March 16, 2018. On March 10, 2020 claimant's daycare provider closed in response to the pandemic. Claimant requested a leave of absence and it was granted at that time.

On April 3, 2020 claimant still did not have daycare. She requested another leave of absence on April 6, 2020. That request was denied. Claimant was told that she needed to return to work for at least three scheduled shifts each week. Claimant was not able to find daycare for those scheduled days.

Claimant decided that she should quit on April 6, 2020. Claimant resigned on that date effective April 10, 2020. Employer did have continuing work available to claimant.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The administrative law judge holds that the evidence has failed to establish that claimant voluntarily quit for good cause attributable to employer when claimant terminated the employment relationship because she could not find childcare during the pandemic.

Iowa Code section 96.5(1) 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.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.25(17) provides:

Voluntary quit without good cause. In general, a voluntary quit means discontinuing the employment because the employee no longer desires to remain in the relationship of an employee with the employer from whom the employee has separated. The employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.5. However, the claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving Iowa Code section 96.5, subsection (1), paragraphs "a" through "i," and subsection 10. The following reasons for a voluntary quit shall be presumed to be without good cause attributable to the employer:

(17) The claimant left because of lack of child care.

Claimant has the burden of proving that the voluntary leaving was for good cause attributable to the employer. Iowa Code § 96.6(2). A voluntary leaving of employment requires an intention to terminate the employment relationship accompanied by an overt act of carrying out that intention. *Local Lodge #1426 v. Wilson Trailer*, 289 N.W.2d 608, 612 (Iowa 1980).

While claimant's leaving the employment may have been based upon good personal reasons, it was not for a good-cause reason attributable to the employer. Benefits must be denied.

Note to Claimant: This decision determines you are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. If you disagree with this decision you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision. Individuals who do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits due to disqualifying separations, but who are currently unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19 may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility under the program.** Additional information on how to apply for PUA can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>. If this decision becomes final, or if you are not eligible for PUA, you may have an overpayment of benefits.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated September 9, 2020, (reference 02) is affirmed. Unemployment insurance benefits shall be withheld until claimant has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times claimant's weekly benefit amount, provided claimant is otherwise eligible.



Duane L. Golden
Administrative Law Judge

November 4, 2020
Decision Dated and Mailed

dlg/scn