

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

ANDREW J DOSS
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 15A-UI-08032-S1-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OPTIMAE LIFESERVICES INC
Employer

OC: 06/21/15
Claimant: Appellant (2)

871 IAC 24.1(113)a - Separations From Employment
Section 96.5-1 – Voluntary Leaving - Layoff

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Andrew Doss (claimant) appealed a representative's July 15, 2015, decision (reference 01) that concluded he was not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits because he voluntarily quit work with Optimae Lifeservices (employer). After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was scheduled for August 14, 2015. The claimant participated personally. The employer did not provide a telephone number where it could be reached and therefore, did not participate in the hearing. The claimant offered and Exhibit A was received into evidence.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant was separated from employment for any disqualifying reason.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant was hired in 2014, as a part-time community support staff person. He was assigned to work for another company for four hours every Sunday. Starting in May 2015, the employer did not have any work for him. On May 27, 2015, the claimant sent a letter of resignation to the employer.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant was laid off due to a lack of work.

Iowa Code § 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. 871-24.1(113)a provides:

Separations. All terminations of employment, generally classifiable as layoffs, quits, discharges, or other separations.

a. Layoffs. A layoff is a suspension from pay status (lasting or expected to last more than seven consecutive calendar days without pay) initiated by the employer without prejudice to the worker for such reasons as: lack of orders, model changeover, termination of seasonal or temporary employment, inventory-taking, introduction of laborsaving devices, plant breakdown, shortage of materials; including temporarily furloughed employees and employees placed on unpaid vacations.

The employer laid the claimant off for lack of work at the end of April 2015. When an employer suspends a claimant from work status for a period of time, the separation does not prejudice the claimant. The claimant's separation was attributable to a lack of work by the employer. Once a claimant has been separated from work for one reason, in this case, a layoff, the claimant cannot separate himself again by quitting. The claimant is eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits for that period.

DECISION:

The representative's July 15, 2015, decision (reference 01) is reversed. The claimant was laid off due to a lack of work. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

Beth A. Scheetz
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/mak