

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

LEIGH A DAHLEM
Claimant

APPEAL 21A-UI-11980-B2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 03/28/21
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able and Available/Work Search

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the April 20, 2021, (reference 02), unemployment insurance decision that warned claimant to make at least two work search contacts per week but did not deny benefits for the week ending April 17, 2021. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled to be held on July 19, 2021. Claimant participated.

ISSUE:

Did the claimant make an adequate work search for the week ending April 17, 2021, and was the warning appropriate?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant claimed benefits for the week ending April 17, 2021. She did make a work search for that week and had an interview which brought about a job offer. Claimant accepted the job offer and began work with the University of Iowa on May 10, 2021

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant has made an active and earnest search for work.

Iowa Code section 96.4(3) provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

3. The individual is able to work, is available for work, and is earnestly and actively seeking work. This subsection is waived if the individual is deemed partially unemployed, while employed at the individual's regular job, as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38,

paragraph "b", unnumbered paragraph (1), or temporarily unemployed as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "c". The work search requirements of this subsection and the disqualification requirement for failure to apply for, or to accept suitable work of section 96.5, subsection 3 are waived if the individual is not disqualified for benefits under section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraph "h".

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(27) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

(27) Failure to report on a claim that a claimant made any effort to find employment will make a claimant ineligible for benefits during the period. Mere registration at the workforce development center does not establish that a claimant is able and available for suitable work. It is essential that such claimant must actively and earnestly seek work.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(28) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

(28) A claimant will be ineligible for benefits because of failure to make an adequate work search after having been previously warned and instructed to expand the search for work effort.

The claimant has sufficiently demonstrated to the satisfaction of the administrative law judge an active and earnest search for work for the week ending April 17, 2021. Accordingly, the warning was not appropriate. Claimant did not need to continue her job search when she'd already been offered and accepted employment.

DECISION:

The April 20, 2021, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant did make an active and earnest search for work for the week ending April 17, 2021. Therefore, the warning was not appropriate.



Blair A. Bennett
Administrative Law Judge

July 28, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

bab/mh