

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

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**DOUGLAS W RUSE**  
Claimant

**PRECISION INC**  
Employer

**APPEAL 21A-UI-24331-AW-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 09/19/21  
Claimant: Appellant (4)**

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Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22 – Able & Available – Benefits Eligibility Conditions

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Claimant filed an appeal from the October 25, 2021 (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits effective September 19, 2021 finding claimant was not able to and available for work due to illness. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on December 28, 2021. Claimant participated. Employer participated through Alison Herring, Human Resources Manager. Claimant's Exhibit A was admitted. Official notice was taken of the administrative record.

**ISSUE:**

Whether claimant is able to and available for work.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

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

Claimant began employment with Precision as a full-time Shafter on May 14, 2018. Claimant last performed work for Precision on August 13, 2021, when he suffered a heart attack. Claimant was released by his physician to return to work without restrictions effective September 23, 2021. (Exhibit A) Since September 23, 2021, claimant has been physically able to work and had no other barriers to employment. Claimant filed an initial claim for benefits effective September 19, 2021.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes claimant was able to and available for work effective September 23, 2021. Benefits are allowed effective September 26, 2021 provided claimant is otherwise eligible.

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 96.1A, subsection 37, paragraph "b", subparagraph (1), or temporarily unemployed as defined in section 96.1A, subsection 37, 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. 871-24.22(1), (2) provide, in pertinent part:

Benefits eligibility conditions. For an individual to be eligible to receive benefits the department must find that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. The individual bears the burden of establishing that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work.

(1) Able to work. An individual must be physically and mentally able to work in some gainful employment, not necessarily in the individual's customary occupation, but which is engaged in by others as a means of livelihood.

a. Illness, injury or pregnancy. Each case is decided upon an individual basis, recognizing that various work opportunities present different physical requirements. A statement from a medical practitioner is considered prima facie evidence of the physical ability of the individual to perform the work required. A pregnant individual must meet the same criteria for determining ableness as do all other individuals.

(2) Available for work. The availability requirement is satisfied when an individual is willing, able, and ready to accept suitable work which the individual does not have good cause to refuse, that is, the individual is genuinely attached to the labor market. Since, under unemployment insurance laws, it is the availability of an individual that is required to be tested, the labor market must be described in terms of the individual. A labor market for an individual means a market for the type of service which the individual offers in the geographical area in which the individual offers the service. Market in that sense does not mean that job vacancies must exist; the purpose of unemployment insurance is to compensate for lack of job vacancies. It means only that the type of services which an individual is offering is generally performed in the geographical area in which the individual is offering the services.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(1), (6), (35) provide:

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

(1) An individual who is ill and presently not able to perform work due to illness.

(6) If an individual has a medical report on file submitted by a physician, stating such individual is not presently able to work.

(35) Where the claimant is not able to work and is under the care of a medical practitioner and has not been released as being able to work.

An individual claiming benefits has the burden of proof that he is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22.

Between September 19, 2021 and September 22, 2021, claimant was under the care of a medical professional and had not been released to return to work. Because claimant was not able to and available for work the majority of the week, he is not eligible for benefits. Benefits are denied from September 19, 2021 through September 25, 2021.

Effective September 23, 2021, claimant was released by his physician to return to work without restrictions and had no barriers to employment. Claimant was able to and available for work and, thus, is eligible for benefits. Benefits are allowed effective September 26, 2021, provided claimant is otherwise eligible.

**DECISION:**

The October 25, 2021 (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is modified in favor of appellant. Claimant was not able to and available for work from September 19, 2021 through September 22, 2021; benefits are denied from September 19, 2021 through September 25, 2021. Claimant is able to and available for work effective September 23, 2021; benefits are allowed effective September 26, 2021 provided claimant is otherwise eligible.



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Adrienne C. Williamson  
Administrative Law Judge  
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January 25, 2022  
Decision Dated and Mailed

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