

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

ECHO J COUNTER
Claimant

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

APPEAL NO. 19A-UI-08379-JE-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 08/18/19
Claimant: Appellant (2)

871 IAC 24.2(1)e - Failure to Report
Iowa Code § 96.4-3 - Able and Available for Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated October 21, 2019, (reference 03), which denied benefits as of October 13, 2019, due to the claimant's failure to report as directed. After a hearing notice was mailed to the party's last-known address of record, a telephone hearing was held on November 14, 2019. The claimant participated in the hearing.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant failed to report as directed and does not meet the availability requirements of the law.

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 directed to report to a IWD representative October 9, 2019, regarding his work searches and to register for Iowa Works and he did so. That day in the mail he received another notice to report to IWD to register for Iowa Works. Because the claimant believed he had registered for that program when he was at IWD October 9, 2019, he did not report a second time. The claimant's claim was locked effective October 13, 2019, in a decision dated October 21, 2019, and he went to his local office October 25, 2019. At that time, it was discovered there were two accounts in his name, one of which was not associated with his social security number and that was what caused IWD to believe he had not registered.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue is whether the claimant failed to report as directed. For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant has established a good cause reason for having failed to report as directed.

A claimant will be disqualified as unavailable for work if he fails to report as directed to Iowa Workforce Development in response to the notice that was mailed to him. See 871 IAC 24.23(11).

871 IAC 24.23(11) provides:

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

(11) Failure to report as directed to workforce development in response to the notice which was mailed to the claimant will result in the claimant being deemed not to meet the availability requirements.

871 IAC 24.2(1)e provides:

e. In order to maintain continuing eligibility for benefits during any continuous period of unemployment, an individual shall report as directed to do so by an authorized representative of the department. If the individual has moved to another locality, the individual may register and report in person at a workforce development center at the time previously specified for the reporting.

The method of reporting and the payment of benefits, provided the individual is otherwise eligible, shall be on a biweekly basis by mail if the claimant files a Form 60-0151.

The method of reporting shall be weekly if a voice response continued claim is filed, unless otherwise directed by an authorized representative of the department. An individual who files a voice response continued claim will have the benefit payment automatically deposited weekly in the individual's financial institution's account or be paid by the mailing of a warrant on a biweekly basis.

In order for an individual to receive payment by direct deposit, the individual must provide the department with the appropriate bank routing code number and a checking or savings account number.

The department retains the ultimate authority to choose the method of reporting and payment.

The administrative law judge finds the claimant reported as directed October 9, 2019, and clarified his work searches and registered for Iowa Works. The second notice to report, sent October 9, 2019, was effectively sent in error because of the account associated with the claimant's name that was not linked to his social security number. The claimant reasonably believed he fulfilled his requirements when he reported to the Department October 9, 2019, because he did so. Under these circumstances, the administrative law judge finds he cannot be disqualified for his failure to report. Benefits are allowed effective October 13, 2019.

DECISION:

The unemployment insurance decision dated October 21, 2019, (reference 03), is reversed. The claimant did not fail to report as directed. Benefits are allowed effective October 13, 2019, provided he is otherwise eligible.

Julie Elder
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

je/scn