

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

**SARAH VAN HOUTEN**  
Claimant

**DARWIN T LYNNER CO INC**  
Employer

**APPEAL NO. 20A-UI-08416-B2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

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

Iowa Admin. Code ch. 871 r. 24.23(10) – Leave of Absence  
Iowa Code § 96.4-3 – Able and Available

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated July 1, 2020 reference 02, which held claimant not able and available for work. After due notice, a hearing was scheduled for and held on August 28, 2020. Claimant participated personally. Employer participated by Eric Lynner. Claimant's Exhibits A-B were admitted into evidence.

**ISSUE:**

Whether claimant is able and available for work?

Whether claimant is on an approved leave of absence?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant has been employed as a part time assistant property manager for employer. She normally worked steady hours, but was off from work between March 30, 2020 and April 10, 2020 as she had symptoms of Covid and there was no testing available. Claimant was told to self-quarantine by her doctor during this period.

During this time claimant was not able and available for work. Employer approved claimant's leave during this period.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(10) provides:

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

(10) The claimant requested and was granted a leave of absence, such period is deemed to be a period of voluntary unemployment and shall be considered ineligible for benefits for such period.

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. 871-24.22(1)a provides:

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.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(35) provides:

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

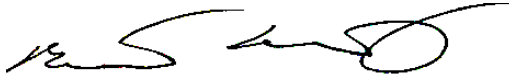
(35) Where the claimant is not able to work and is under the care of a medical practitioner and has not been released as being able to work.

Inasmuch as the treating physician had not released the claimant to return to work between March 30, 2020 and April 10, 2020. The claimant has not established the ability to work. Benefits are withheld during this period of time.

*Note to Claimant:* Even though claimant is not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits under state law, she may be eligible for federally funded unemployment insurance benefits under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("Cares Act"), Public Law 116-136. Section 2102 of the CARES Act creates a new temporary federal program called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) that in general provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits. **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>.

**DECISION:**

The decision of the representative dated July 1, 2020, reference 02 is affirmed. Claimant is not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits, effective March 30, 2020 through April 10, 2020.



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Blair A. Bennett  
Administrative Law Judge

August 31, 2020  
Decision Dated and Mailed

bab/scn