

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

TRENTON J OBRIEN
Claimant

APPEAL 18A-UI-05536-SC-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 04/08/18
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

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:

Trenton J. OBrien (claimant) filed an appeal from the May 10, 2018, reference 01, unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits based upon his report that he was not able to and available for work during the week ending April 28, 2018. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled to be held on June 5, 2018. The claimant participated.

ISSUE:

Was the claimant able to work, available for work, and actively and earnestly seeking work the week ending April 28, 2018?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant accidentally reported that he was not able to and available for work. The week ending April 28, he was in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, did not have any physical limitations preventing him from working, and made two job searches. He did not earn wages or have any other income that week.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant was able to work and available for work, and made an earnest search for work for the period in question. Benefits are allowed, if he 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 96.19, 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 provides, in relevant 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.

...

(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.
employer temporarily suspended operations.

An individual claiming benefits has the burden of proof that he is be able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22. The claimant has sufficiently demonstrated to the satisfaction of the administrative law judge that he was able to and available for work during the week ending April 28, 2018. Benefits are allowed, provided he is otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The May 10, 2018, reference 01, unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant was able to work and available for work the week ending April 28, 2018. Benefits are allowed, provided he is otherwise eligible.

Stephanie R. Callahan
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

src/scn