

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU**

**RORY D LANGLET**

Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 22A-UI-15787-B2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**DDRS EXPRESS LLC**

Employer

**OC: 07/10/22**

**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.5-1 – Voluntary Quit  
Iowa Code § 96.4-3 – Able and Available

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated July 29, 2022, (reference 01) which held claimant ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After due notice, a hearing was scheduled for and held on September 7, 2022. Claimant participated. Employer participated by Deb Jenkins.

**ISSUES:**

Whether claimant quit for good cause attributable to employer?

Whether claimant is able and available for work?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant last worked for employer on December 18, 2021. Claimant voluntarily quit his position as a full time truck driver as he could no longer safely fulfill his duties due to his diabetic retinopathy. The disease claimant had was greatly affecting the vision in his eye and causing him to have multiple falls and to not be able to see things out the side of his field of view.

Claimant expressed frustration over his ability to do his job months before he quit his job in December, telling ownership that he didn't think he could continue in September 2021. This was as a result of his worsening vision and the problems it was causing claimant. Claimant went to many doctors' appointments to get temporary relief, and attempted to tell employer of another visit in early January 2022. Employer denied claimant's request for time off for the visit. (Employer gave non-credible testimony that she allowed this visit.) This visit would have necessitated an extended time off to let the treatment take full effect. Claimant then decided that he would quit work as he'd recently had numerous falls from his cab and concerns while driving.

Claimant stated that at no time since his quit has he been able to safely drive a truck as a result of his vision problems.

Claimant stated that he has been basically truck driving all his adult life – since he was 18, and he's now 60. He's now applying for general labor positions, but with his vision problems he has a tough time going down steps without falling and has a difficult time reading.

### **REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code section 96.5(1) provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits, regardless of the source of the individual's wage credits:

1. Voluntary quitting. If the individual has left work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the individual's employer, if so found by the department.

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.

The administrative law judge holds that claimant did voluntarily quit his job as claimant had been planning on quitting as his vision was making his job as a driver impossible. Additionally, claimant did not attempt to negotiate with employer getting the time off from work to go to his medical appointment as employer had allowed claimant to go to multiple appointments in the past. Instead, claimant simply chose to quit. This was in line with claimant's ongoing frustration about his declining vision and how it greatly impaired his ability to do his job. Claimant's quit was without good cause attributable to employer.

At no time has claimant been able to drive a truck after his quit, and after June of 2022 claimant's CDL was taken from him. From the time of claimant's filing for unemployment benefits, he is unable to go up and down stairs for fear of falling and cannot read with his vision, as it now exists. This, combined with claimant's limited work history, creates a situation where claimant is not able and available for work.

**DECISION:**

The decision of the representative dated August 2, 2022, reference 01, is affirmed. Unemployment insurance benefits shall be withheld until claimant has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times claimant's weekly benefit amount, provided claimant is otherwise eligible.



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Blair Bennett| Administrative Law Judge II  
Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals

October 4, 2022  
Decision Dated and Mailed

bab/sa

**APPEAL RIGHTS.** If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor – Lucas Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
Online: [eab.iowa.gov](http://eab.iowa.gov)**

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday. *There is no filing fee to file an appeal with the Employment Appeal Board.*

**AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL STATE CLEARLY:**

- 1) The name, address, and social security number of the claimant.
- 2) A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
- 3) That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
- 4) The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If you do not file an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at [www.iowacourts.gov/efile](http://www.iowacourts.gov/efile). *There may be a filing fee to file the petition in District Court.*

**Note to Parties:** YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds.

**Note to Claimant:** It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

**SERVICE INFORMATION:**

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

**DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN.** Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board  
4th Floor – Lucas Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal. *No hay tarifa de presentación para presentar una apelación ante la Junta de Apelación de Empleo.*

**UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:**

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si no presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelación de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en una acción final de la agencia y tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en [www.iowacourts.gov/efile](http://www.iowacourts.gov/efile). *Puede haber una tarifa de presentación para presentar la petición en el Tribunal de Distrito.*

**Nota para las partes:** USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

**Nota para el reclamante:** es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

**SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:**

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.