

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

TYRONIE WALTON
Claimant

EXPRESS SERVICES INC
Employer

APPEAL 21A-UI-13829-JC-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 09/13/20
Claimant: Appellant (2R)

Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quitting
Iowa Code § 96.5(1)j – Voluntary Quitting – Temporary Employment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant/appellant, Tyronie Walton, filed an appeal from the June 1, 2021 (reference 03) Iowa Workforce Development (“IWD”) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on August 13, 2021. The claimant participated. The employer did not respond to the notice of hearing to furnish a phone number with the Appeals Bureau and did not participate in the hearing. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative records. Based on the evidence, the arguments presented, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

ISSUES:

Did the claimant quit by not reporting for an additional work assignment within three business days of the end of the last assignment?
Did claimant voluntarily quit the employment with good cause attributable to the employer?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant began employment on assignment with Catch Up on October 19, 2020 and worked until November 13, 2020. Claimant then was absent due to illness, which she properly reported to the employer. Due to the timing of the illness, claimant was required to present a negative COVID-19 test to return to work.

When claimant received her results on November 20, 2020, she notified the employer and asked if she was to return to work. They told her no. On November 23, 2020, claimant contacted the employer by phone and asked if there were any additional assignments she could take. The receptionist said no. Claimant continued to check in periodically and no assignment was offered until April 9, 2021, which she was declined. Claimant also fell in December 29, 2020 and was unable to work for a period which she recovered.

Employer did not attend the hearing. No evidence was presented that claimant was trained on an employer reassignment policy.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant voluntarily left the employment with good cause attributable to the employer.

Iowa Code section 96.5(1)j 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. But the individual shall not be disqualified if the department finds that:

j. (1) The individual is a temporary employee of a temporary employment firm who notifies the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment and who seeks reassignment. Failure of the individual to notify the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment within three working days of the completion of each employment assignment under a contract of hire shall be deemed a voluntary quit unless the individual was not advised in writing of the duty to notify the temporary employment firm upon completion of an employment assignment or the individual had good cause for not contacting the temporary employment firm within three working days and notified the firm at the first reasonable opportunity thereafter.

(2) To show that the employee was advised in writing of the notification requirement of this paragraph, the temporary employment firm shall advise the temporary employee by requiring the temporary employee, at the time of employment with the temporary employment firm, to read and sign a document that provides a clear and concise explanation of the notification requirement and the consequences of a failure to notify. The document shall be separate from any contract of employment and a copy of the signed document shall be provided to the temporary employee.

(3) For the purposes of this paragraph:

(a) "Temporary employee" means an individual who is employed by a temporary employment firm to provide services to clients to supplement their workforce during absences, seasonal workloads, temporary skill or labor market shortages, and for special assignments and projects.

(b) "Temporary employment firm" means a person engaged in the business of employing temporary employees.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.26(15) provides:

Employee of temporary employment firm.

a. The individual is a temporary employee of a temporary employment firm who notifies the temporary employment firm within three days of completion of an employment assignment and seeks reassignment under the contract of hire. The employee must be advised by the employer of the notification requirement in writing and receive a copy.

b. The individual shall be eligible for benefits under this subrule if the individual has good cause for not contacting the employer within three days and did notify the employer at the first reasonable opportunity.

c. Good cause is a substantial and justifiable reason, excuse or cause such that a reasonable and prudent person, who desired to remain in the ranks of the employed, would find to be adequate justification for not notifying the employer. Good cause would include the employer's going out of business; blinding snow storm; telephone lines down; employer closed for vacation; hospitalization of the claimant; and other substantial reasons.

d. Notification may be accomplished by going to the employer's place of business, telephoning the employer, faxing the employer, or any other currently acceptable means of communications. Working days means the normal days in which the employer is open for business.

The purpose of the statute is to provide notice to the temporary agency employer that the claimant is available for work at the conclusion of each temporary assignment so they may be reassigned and continue working. The plain language of the statute allows benefits for a claimant "who notifies the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment and who seeks reassignment." Since claimant contacted the employer immediately upon the end of the assignment, requested reassignment, and there was no work available, benefits are allowed, provided she is otherwise eligible.

The following issues are remanded to the Benefits Bureau for an initial investigation:

1. Whether claimant was able and available for work effective December 29, 2020 due to injury?
2. Whether claimant refused a suitable offer of work with this employer on April 9, 2021?

DECISION:

The June 1, 2021 (reference 03) initial decision is REVERSED. The claimant's separation from employment was attributable to the employer. The employer had adequate knowledge about the conclusion of the claimant's assignment and the request for more work but had no further work available at the time. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

REMAND:

The following issues are remanded to the Benefits Bureau for an initial investigation:

1. Whether claimant was able and available for work effective December 29, 2020 due to injury?
2. Whether claimant refused a suitable offer of work with this employer on April 9, 2021?



Jennifer L. Beckman
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August 18, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

jlb/mh