

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI	
MAURICE WATKINS Claimant	APPEAL NO. 12A-UI-06649-MT
REMEDY INTELLIGENT STAFFING INC Employer	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DECISION
	OC: 05/06/12 Claimant: Appellant (2)

Section 96.4-3 – Able and Available

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated May 24, 2012, reference 01, which held claimant not able and available for work. After due notice, a hearing was scheduled for and held on June 28, 2012. Claimant participated personally. Employer participated by Jeffrey Parent, Branch Manager.

ISSUE:

The issue in this matter is 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 worked for employer at a temporary job with client Oral B. Claimant finished his 1000 hours of work and was laid off. Claimant uses public transportation in Iowa City for his commute to work. Claimant was not offered any Iowa City jobs after the layoff. Claimant has never had access to an automobile for work purposes.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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".

871 IAC 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.

871 IAC 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 physician and has not been released as being able to work.

Claimant has been able to maintain gainful employment by using public transportation in Iowa City for a prolonged period. The lack of access to an automobile does not make him unavailable for work. Benefits shall be allowed effective May 6, 2012.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated May 24, 2012, reference 01, is reversed. Claimant is eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits, effective May 6, 2012, provided claimant meets all other eligibility requirements.

Marlon Mormann
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

mdm/css