

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Section
1000 East Grand—Des Moines, Iowa 50319
DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
68-0157 (7-97) – 3091078 - EI

GARY WEST
628 W 64TH ST
DAVENPORT IA 52806

HANSALOY CORP
820 W 35TH ST
DAVENPORT IA 52806

Appeal Number: 04A-UI-05656-HT
OC: 04/25/04 R: 04
Claimant: Appellant (1)

This Decision Shall Become Final, unless within fifteen (15) days from the date below, you or any interested party appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by submitting either a signed letter or a signed written Notice of Appeal, directly to the **Employment Appeal Board, 4th Floor—Lucas Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.**

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.

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.

YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in this appeal or you may 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. It is important that you file your claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

(Administrative Law Judge)

(Decision Dated & Mailed)

Section 96.5-2-a - Discharge

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant, Gary West, filed an appeal from a decision dated May 11, 2004, reference 01. The decision disqualified him from receiving unemployment benefits. After due notice was issued a hearing was held by telephone conference call on June 15, 2004. The claimant participated on his own behalf. The employer, Hansaloy, participated by Plant Manager Joel Wright and Financial Controller Colleen Evans.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony of the witnesses and having examined all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Gary West was employed by Hansaloy from August 18, 1997 until April 26, 2004. He was a full-time welder.

The claimant was placed on a "last chance agreement" effective August 8, 2003, for 18 months. This was due to excessive absenteeism and he was advised his job was in jeopardy if he had any more unexcused absences.

On April 23, 2004, the claimant contacted Production Supervisor A.J. Davis and said he had to take his son to the doctor and he would be in to work around 10:00 a.m. However, he did not come in and did not call to advise anyone that he would not be in after all. On Monday, April 26, 2004, he was discharged by Plant Manager Joel Wright.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue is whether the claimant is disqualified. The judge concludes he is.

Iowa Code Section 96.5-2-a provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

2. Discharge for misconduct. If the department finds that the individual has been discharged for misconduct in connection with the individual's employment:
 - a. The individual shall be disqualified for benefits until the individual has worked in and has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times the individual's weekly benefit amount, provided the individual is otherwise eligible.

871 IAC 24.32(1)a, (7) provide:

Discharge for misconduct.

(1) Definition.

- a. "Misconduct" is defined as a deliberate act or omission by a worker which constitutes a material breach of the duties and obligations arising out of such worker's contract of employment. Misconduct as the term is used in the disqualification provision as being limited to conduct evincing such willful or wanton disregard of an employer's interest as is found in deliberate violation or disregard of standards of behavior which the employer has the right to expect of employees, or in carelessness or negligence of such degree of recurrence as to manifest equal culpability, wrongful intent or evil design, or to show an intentional and substantial disregard of the employer's interests or of the employee's duties and obligations to the employer. On the other hand mere inefficiency, unsatisfactory conduct, failure in good performance as the result of inability or incapacity, inadvertencies or ordinary negligence in isolated instances, or good faith errors in judgment or discretion are not to be deemed misconduct within the meaning of the statute.

This definition has been accepted by the Iowa Supreme Court as accurately reflecting the intent of the legislature. Huntoon v. Iowa Department of Job Service, 275 N.W.2d 445, 448 (Iowa 1979).

(7) Excessive unexcused absenteeism. Excessive unexcused absenteeism is an intentional disregard of the duty owed by the claimant to the employer and shall be considered misconduct except for illness or other reasonable grounds for which the employee was absent and that were properly reported to the employer.

The claimant had been advised his job was in jeopardy as a result of his absenteeism. In spite of the warning he failed to notify the employer on April 23, 2004, that he would not be in to work for the entire day after stating he would be in around 10:00 a.m. Mr. West failed to provide any explanation for his failure to do so. This was not an excused absence and, in conjunction with prior absences for which he was warned, is excessive and unexcused. He is disqualified.

DECISION:

The representative's decision of May 11, 2004, reference 01, is affirmed. Gary West is disqualified and benefits are withheld until he has earned ten times his weekly benefit amount provided he is otherwise eligible.

bgh/kjf