

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

TABBETHA S WILLETT
Claimant

ADVANCE SERVICES INC
Employer

APPEAL 16A-UI-08351-DB-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 07/10/16
Claimant: Appellant (2R)

Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quitting
Iowa Code § 96.5(1)j – Voluntary Quitting – Temporary Employment
Iowa Code § 96.5(2)a – Discharge for Misconduct

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant/appellant filed an appeal from the July 28, 2016 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits based upon her voluntary quit from employment by failing to notify the temporary employment firm within three working days of the completion of her last work assignment. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on September 9, 2016. The claimant, Tabbetha S. Willett, participated personally. The employer, Advance Services Inc., participated through witness Melissa Lewien. Employer's Exhibits 1 and 2 were admitted.

ISSUES:

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

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant was an employee of a temporary employment firm. Claimant began her employment on April 25, 2016. On April 21, 2016 the claimant completed paperwork with the employer, including signing the employer's availability statement. See Exhibit 1. A copy of this availability statement and the employer's policy were given to the claimant.

Claimant received her job assignment from the employer to work full-time at Pella Corporation. Claimant's job duties included quality assurance in the manufacturing plant. This job assignment began April 25, 2016 and ended on July 7, 2016. The reason the job assignment ended was because claimant was missing too much work and the client cancelled the assignment. Claimant telephoned Joy Hall in the Pella, Iowa office on July 7, 2016 to request additional work. Ms. Hall told claimant that no further work was available.

Claimant testified that she has decided to be a stay at home mother. Whether or not the claimant is able to and available for work should be remanded to the benefits bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for an initial investigation and determination.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the separation was with good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are allowed.

Iowa Code § 96.5-(1)-j provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

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(19) provides:

Voluntary quit with good cause attributable to the employer and separations not considered to be voluntary quits. The following are reasons for a claimant leaving employment with good cause attributable to the employer:

(19) The claimant was employed on a temporary basis for assignment to spot jobs or casual labor work and fulfilled the contract of hire when each of the jobs was completed. An election not to report for a new assignment to work shall not be construed as a voluntary leaving of employment. The issue of a refusal of an offer of suitable work shall

be adjudicated when an offer of work is made by the former employer. The provisions of Iowa Code section 96.5(3) and rule 24.24(96) are controlling in the determination of suitability of work. However, this subrule shall not apply to substitute school employees who are subject to the provisions of Iowa Code section 96.4(5) which denies benefits that are based on service in an educational institution when the individual declines or refuses to accept a new contract or reasonable assurance of continued employment status. Under this circumstance, the substitute school employee shall be considered to have voluntarily quit employment.

It is the duty of the administrative law judge as the trier of fact in this case, to determine the credibility of witnesses, weigh the evidence and decide the facts in issue. *Arndt v. City of LeClaire*, 728 N.W.2d 389, 394-395 (Iowa 2007). The administrative law judge may believe all, part or none of any witness's testimony. *State v. Holtz*, 548 N.W.2d 162, 163 (Iowa App. 1996). In assessing the credibility of witnesses, the administrative law judge should consider the evidence using his or her own observations, common sense and experience. *Id.* In determining the facts, and deciding what testimony to believe, the fact finder may consider the following factors: whether the testimony is reasonable and consistent with other believable evidence; whether a witness has made inconsistent statements; the witness's appearance, conduct, age, intelligence, memory and knowledge of the facts; and the witness's interest in the trial, their motive, candor, bias and prejudice. *Id.* After assessing the credibility of the witnesses who testified during the hearing, considering the applicable factors listed above, and using her own common sense and experience, the administrative law judge finds claimant's testimony more credible than the employer's testimony.

The purpose of the statute is to provide notice to the temporary agency employer that the claimant is available for and seeking work at the end of the temporary assignment. Since she contacted the employer within three working days of the notification of the end of the assignment, requested reassignment, and there was no work available, no disqualification is imposed. As such, the claimant complied with Iowa Code section 96.5(1)j and she did not voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer. The separation is not disqualifying. Benefits are allowed.

DECISION:

The July 28, 2016 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant's separation from employment was not disqualifying. Benefits are allowed, provided she is otherwise eligible. Any benefits claimed and withheld on this basis shall be paid.

REMAND: Whether claimant is able to and available for work delineated in the findings of fact is remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for an initial investigation and determination.

Dawn Boucher
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

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