

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

MICHAEL J DECOSTER
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 10A-UI-01479-SWT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

TARGET CORPORATION
Employer

**Original Claim: 12/27/09
Claimant: Respondent (2-R)**

Section 96.5-2-a – Discharge
Section 96.3-7 – Overpayment of Benefits

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated January 19, 2010, reference 01, that concluded the claimant's discharge was not for work-connected misconduct. A telephone hearing was held on March 9, 2010. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. The claimant participated in the hearing. Janet Frasher participated in the hearing on behalf of the employer with a witness, Melissa Lively. Exhibits 1 through 5 were admitted into evidence at the hearing.

ISSUES:

Was the claimant discharged for work-connected misconduct?

Was the claimant overpaid unemployment insurance benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The claimant worked for the employer in an overnight position restocking shelves from June 12, 2007, to December 20, 2009. The claimant was informed and understood that under the employer's work rules, regular attendance was required and employees were required to notify the employer if they were not able to work as scheduled.

The claimant had received a final warning on October 12, 2009, after he was absent from work without notice on October 9 and 10. The reason the claimant was absent is he recorded his work schedule wrong. He was informed that an additional no-call, no-show could result in his discharge.

The claimant was scheduled to work from 10:00 p.m. on December 18 to 6:30 a.m. on December 19. He had also worked the overnight shift the night before. He had some personal business to handle after he got off work on the morning of December 18 and did not get to bed until about 6:00 p.m. He slept through his alarm and did not wake up until 3 a.m. He did not have phone service at the time and did not call in.

When the claimant reported to work on December 20, 2009, the employer discharged him for excessive unexcused absenteeism.

The claimant filed for and received a total of \$2,497.00 in unemployment insurance benefits for the weeks between December 27, 2009, and March 13, 2010.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue in this case is whether the claimant was discharged for work-connected misconduct as defined by the unemployment insurance law.

The unemployment insurance law disqualifies claimants discharged for work-connected misconduct. Iowa Code § 96.5-2-a. The rules define misconduct as (1) deliberate acts or omissions by a worker that materially breach the duties and obligations arising out of the contract of employment, (2) deliberate violations or disregard of standards of behavior that the employer has the right to expect of employees, or (3) carelessness or negligence of such degree of recurrence as to manifest equal culpability, wrongful intent, or evil design. 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 misconduct within the meaning of the statute. 871 IAC 24.32(1).

871 IAC 24.32(7) provides: "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 was absent from work without notice on two days in October, for which he was warned, and one day in December. Not correctly recording his schedule or oversleeping would not be excused reasons for missing work. Work-connected misconduct as defined by law has been established in this case.

The unemployment insurance law requires benefits to be recovered from a claimant who receives benefits and is later determined to be ineligible for benefits, even though the claimant acted in good faith and was not otherwise at fault. But the overpayment will not be recovered when an initial determination to award benefits is reversed on appeal on an issue regarding the claimant's employment separation if: (1) the benefits were not received due to any fraud or willful misrepresentation by the claimant and (2) the employer did not participate in the initial proceeding to award benefits. The employer will not be charged for benefits whether or not the overpayment is recovered. Iowa Code § 96.3-7. In this case, the claimant has received benefits but was ineligible for those benefits. The matter of deciding the amount of the overpayment and whether the overpayment should be recovered under Iowa Code § 96.3-7-b is remanded to the Agency.

DECISION:

The unemployment insurance decision dated January 19, 2010, reference 01, is reversed. The claimant is disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits until he has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times his weekly benefit amount, provided he is otherwise eligible. The matter of deciding the amount of the overpayment and whether the overpayment should be recovered under Iowa Code § 96.3-7-b is remanded to the Agency.

Steven A. Wise
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

saw/kjw