

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

EDWARD T DELAGARDELLE
Claimant

APPEAL 21A-UI-06074-JC-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

HAWKEYE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Employer

**OC: 03/22/20
Claimant: Respondent (4)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able to and Available for Work
Iowa Code § 96.19(38)a & b – Total and Partial Unemployment
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(26) – Able & Available – Availability Disqualifications
Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(2) – Same Base Period Employment
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2)i(3) – Availability for Work – On-call Workers

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer/appellant, Hawkeye Community College, filed an appeal from the February 23, 2021 (reference 02) Iowa Workforce Development (“IWD”) unemployment insurance decision that allowed benefits effective March 22, 2020, concluding that claimant was laid off. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on May 3, 2021. The claimant 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 employer participated through Lynn Duit.

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:

Is the claimant an on-call worker?
Is the claimant totally, partially, or temporarily unemployed?
Is the claimant able to and available for work?
Is the claimant still employed at the same hours and wages?
Is the employer’s account subject to charge?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant has worked for this employer since 2015. Most recently he works as a truck driving instructor for employer’s non-credit classes. Claimant is employed as an on-call or as-needed basis. In addition, claimant’s employment is dependent on student enrollment, contracts with companies utilizing the college, and claimant is not guaranteed hours, shifts or classes. Non-credit classes vary in length from two days to a couple weeks and do not run concurrently with the credit class

calendar. Claimant last performed work March 27, 2020. Claimant has other regular employment in the base period with Standard Forwarding LLC.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes claimant's availability with this employer is moot.

Iowa Code § 96.19(38)b provides:

As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

38. "Total and partial unemployment".

a. An individual shall be deemed "totally unemployed" in any week with respect to which no wages are payable to the individual and during which the individual performs no services.

b. An individual shall be deemed partially unemployed in any week in which either of the following apply:

(1) While employed at the individual's then regular job, the individual works less than the regular full-time week and in which the individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

(2) The individual, having been separated from the individual's regular job, earns at odd jobs less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

c. An individual shall be deemed temporarily unemployed if for a period, verified by the department, not to exceed four consecutive weeks, the individual is unemployed due to a plant shutdown, vacation, inventory, lack of work, or emergency from the individual's regular job or trade in which the individual worked full-time and will again work full-time, if the individual's employment, although temporarily suspended, has not been terminated.

Iowa Code section 96.7(2)a(2)(a), (b), and (c) provides:

2. *Contribution rates based on benefit experience.*

a. (2) The amount of regular benefits plus fifty percent of the amount of extended benefits paid to an eligible individual shall be charged against the account of the employers in the base period in the inverse chronological order in which the employment of the individual occurred.

(a) However, if the individual to whom the benefits are paid is in the employ of a base period employer at the time the individual is receiving the benefits, and the individual is receiving the same employment from the employer that the individual received during the individual's base period, benefits paid to the individual shall not be charged against the account of the employer. This provision applies to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding subparagraph (3) and section 96.8, subsection 5.

(b) An employer's account shall not be charged with benefits paid to an individual who left the work of the employer voluntarily without good cause attributable to the employer or to an individual who was discharged for misconduct in connection with the individual's employment, or to an individual who failed without good cause, either to apply for available, suitable work or to

accept suitable work with that employer, but shall be charged to the unemployment compensation fund. This paragraph applies to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

(c) The amount of benefits paid to an individual, which is solely due to wage credits considered to be in an individual's base period due to the exclusion and substitution of calendar quarters from the individual's base period under section 96.23, shall be charged against the account of the employer responsible for paying the workers' compensation benefits for temporary total disability or during a healing period under section 85.33, section 85.34, subsection 1, or section 85A.17, or responsible for paying indemnity insurance benefits.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-23.43(4)a provides:

Charging of benefits to employer accounts.

23.43(4) Supplemental employment.

a. An individual, who has been separated with cause attributable to the regular employer and who remains in the employ of the individual's part-time, base period employer, continues to be eligible for benefits as long as the individual is receiving the same employment from the part-time employer that the individual received during the base period. The part-time employer's account, *including the reimbursable employer's account*, may be relieved of benefit charges. On a *second benefit year claim* where the individual worked only for the part-time employer during the base period and the lag quarter, the part-time employer shall not be considered for relief of benefit charges with the onset of the second benefit year. It is the part-time employer's responsibility to notify the department of the part-time employment situation so the department may render a decision as to the availability of the individual and benefit charges. The individual is required to report gross wages earned in the part-time employment for each week claimed and the wages shall be deducted from any benefits paid in accordance with Iowa Code section 96.3(3).

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 96.1A, subsection 37, paragraph "b", subparagraph (1), or temporarily unemployed as defined in section 96.1A, subsection 37, 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".

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2)i(3) 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.

(2) Available for work. The availability requirement is satisfied when an individual is willing, able, and ready to accept suitable work which the individual does not have good cause to refuse, that is, the individual is genuinely attached to the labor market....

i. On-call workers.

(3) An individual whose wage credits earned in the base period of the claim consist exclusively of wage credits by performing on-call work, such as a banquet worker, railway worker, substitute school teacher or any other individual whose work is solely on-call work during the base period, is not considered an unemployed individual within the meaning of Iowa Code section 96.1A(37)"a" and "b." An individual who is willing to accept only on-call work is not considered to be available for work.

Because claimant was hired to work on-call or as-needed, he is not considered unemployed within the meaning of the law as it pertains to this employer. When an individual is hired to work on-call, the implied agreement is that they will only work when work is available and that work will not be regularly available. Thus any reduction in hours is directly related to the on-call status as no regular hours are guaranteed.

However, since there are other wages in the base period, the monetary eligibility of the claimant needs to be examined to determine eligibility based upon the other employment and the lack of regular work with this on-call employer is moot. Accordingly, benefits may be allowed if the claimant is otherwise monetarily eligible and the account of this employer shall not be charged.

DECISION:

The February 23, 2021, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is modified in favor of the appellant. The claimant's on-call status renders availability for this employment moot as he has other qualifying wages in the base period. Benefits are allowed if claimant is otherwise monetarily eligible and the account of this employer shall not be charged.



Jennifer L. Beckman
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June 25, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

jlb/lj