

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

**MARY L KANE**  
Claimant

**BETIN INC**  
Employer

**APPEAL 18A-UI-09109-DG-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 06/03/18**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quitting

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated August 23, 2018, (reference 05) that held claimant ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After due notice, a hearing was scheduled for and held on September 18, 2018. Claimant participated. Employer participated by Carly Rewey, Human Resources Manager.

**ISSUE:**

The issue in this matter is whether claimant quit for good cause attributable to employer?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant last worked for employer on July 17, 2018. Claimant resigned from the employment because the work was too physically demanding.

Claimant began working for employer on July 12, 2018 as a packager. The work assignment required claimant to stand on concrete for her entire shift, and the work environment was loud. Claimant's legs began feeling numb after the first day, and she did not believe she was physically able to perform the tasks she was asked to perform by employer. Claimant decided to resign from the employment on July 17, 2018 rather than perform the assigned job-related tasks.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The administrative law judge holds that the evidence has failed to establish that claimant voluntarily quit for good cause attributable to employer when claimant terminated the employment relationship because she did not want to perform the job-related tasks that were assigned by employer.

Iowa Code section 96.5(1) 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.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.25(27) provides:

**Voluntary quit without good cause.** In general, a voluntary quit means discontinuing the employment because the employee no longer desires to remain in the relationship of an employee with the employer from whom the employee has separated. The employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.5. However, the claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving Iowa Code section 96.5, subsection (1), paragraphs "a" through "i," and subsection 10. The following reasons for a voluntary quit shall be presumed to be without good cause attributable to the employer:

**(27)** The claimant left rather than perform the assigned work as instructed.

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.*

Claimant has the burden of proving that the voluntary leaving was for good cause attributable to the employer. Iowa Code § 96.6(2). A voluntary leaving of employment requires an intention to terminate the employment relationship accompanied by an overt act of carrying out that intention. *Local Lodge #1426 v. Wilson Trailer*, 289 N.W.2d 608, 612 (Iowa 1980).

While claimant's leaving the employment may have been based upon good personal reasons, it was not for a good-cause reason attributable to the employer. Benefits must be denied.

#### **DECISION:**

The decision of the representative dated August 23, 2018, (reference 05) is affirmed. Unemployment insurance benefits shall be withheld until claimant has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times claimant's weekly benefit amount, provided claimant is otherwise eligible.

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Duane L. Golden  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

dlg/scn