

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

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**LARRY T ZWER**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 17A-UI-09192-H2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 08/21/16  
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

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871 IAC 24.2(1)a & h(1) & (2) – Backdating

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Claimant filed a timely appeal from the August 29, 2017, (reference 02) decision that denied his request to backdate the claim for benefits. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on September 26, 2017. Claimant participated.

**ISSUE:**

May the claim be backdated prior to August 13, 2017?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant filed a claim for benefits with an effective date of August 20, 2017. He had a prior claim with an effective date of August 21, 2016 that did not expire until August 20, 2017. During May 2017, the claimant had reopened his claim to obtain benefits during a short term layoff. The claimant has at least a four year history of filing claims, including filing additional claims to reopen his claim each and every year. The claimant was on vacation from July 30 through August 12. The claimant was laid off from work due to lack of work beginning on August 13, 2017 but he did not go in and reopen his claim during the first week of his unemployment. The claimant had just assumed that since he had reopened his claim in May 2017 he would not need to reopen it even though he had a break in his reporting.

The department has not failed to recognize the expiration of the claimant's previous benefit year and there is not an interstate claim against another state which has been determined as ineligible.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request to backdate the claim is denied.

Iowa Code section 96.6(1) provides:

1. Filing. Claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such regulations as the department may prescribe.

Effective Wednesday, July 12, 2017, for claims effective July 16, 2017:  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1) and (2) provide:

**Procedures for workers desiring to file a claim for benefits for unemployment insurance.**

(1) Section 96.6 of the employment security law of Iowa states that claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such rules as the department prescribes. The department of workforce development accordingly prescribes:

*h.* Effective starting date for the benefit year.

(1) Filing for benefits shall be effective as of Sunday of the current calendar week in which, subsequent to the individual's separation from work, an individual files a claim for benefits.

(2) The claim may be backdated prior to the first day of the calendar week in which the claimant does report and file a claim for the following reasons:

1. The failure of the department to recognize the expiration of the claimant's previous benefit year;
2. The claimant filed an interstate claim against another state which has been determined as ineligible.

The October 2016 and June 2017, versions of the *Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook*, provides in pertinent part at pages 13 and 14:

**CLAIM EFFECTIVE DATE**

The effective date of all UI claims, regardless of filing method, will be the Sunday of the week in which the application was filed.

and

**REACTIVATING A CLAIM**

**An individual can start and stop claiming weekly benefits as many times as necessary during the benefit year. This is called a break in reporting status. Any break in reporting requires the individual to file another initial claim application during the week he/she wants to start collecting benefits again. Any employment during the break must be reported.**

Elsewhere in the June 17, 2017, version of the handbook at page 8, contact information includes days and hours for filing a claim and weekly claim reporting:

**File a Claim**

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

[www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov)

<https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/UIInitialClaim/>

**Weekly Claim Reporting**

Hours: Saturday 9:00 am through Sunday 11:30 pm

[www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov)

While the claimant may have presented reasons for backdating that would have previously been considered "sufficient grounds" to grant the request, effective July 12, 2017, Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1) and (2) allows backdating for only the two reasons cited above. Neither of those reasons applies in this case. Accordingly, the backdating request must be denied.

**DECISION:**

The August 29, 2017, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant's request to backdate the claim is denied.

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Teresa K. Hillary  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/rvs