

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

JULIE J CLAUSEN
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 12A-UI-13395-LT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

GRAPETREE MEDICAL STAFFING INC
Employer

**OC: 07/15/12
Claimant: Appellant (4)**

Iowa Code § 96.19(38)a & b – Total and Partial Unemployment
Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(2) – Same Base Period Employment
Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2)f – Part-Time Worker – Able and Available

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the November 5, 2012 (reference 04) decision that denied benefits. After due notice was issued, a hearing was scheduled to be held by telephone conference call on January 9, 2013. Both parties responded and were available to participate. Because there was enough information in the administrative record to issue a decision, no hearing was held.

ISSUE:

Is the claimant partially unemployed and available for work, and if so, is the employer's account liable for potential charges?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant is employed as an on-call or as-needed with Grapetree Medical Staffing, Inc. Claimant has other regular employment in the base period with Allen Memorial Hospital.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant's availability for work with this employer is moot and she is considered partially unemployed.

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 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "b", unnumbered paragraph 1, or temporarily unemployed as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, 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".

871 IAC 24.22(2)i(1), (2), (3) provides:

Benefit 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.

i. On-call workers.

(1) Substitute workers (i.e., post office clerks, railroad extra board workers), who hold themselves available for one employer and who do not accept other work, are not available for work within the meaning of the law and are not eligible for benefits.

(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 96.19(9)"a" and "b." An individual who is willing to accept only on-call work is not considered to be available for work.

Iowa Code section 96.19-38 provides:

"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, 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.

An individual shall be deemed partially unemployed in any week in which 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) 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.

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.

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.

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.

871 IAC 23.43(4)a provides in part:

(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....

Because claimant was hired to work on-call or as-needed, she 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 the claimant has other base-period wages and that separation was not disqualifying, even though she is currently employed on-call, she is considered partially unemployed from the base period employer, and the lack of regular work with this on-call employer is moot, except as to reporting wages. Partial benefits may be allowed if she is otherwise eligible. Inasmuch as the current on-call employer is offering the same terms of employment as contemplated at hire, no benefit charges shall be made to its account. Claimant shall report gross wages earned each week in which a claim is filed.

DECISION:

The November 5, 2012 (reference 04) decision is modified in favor of the appellant. The claimant's on-call status renders availability for this employment moot as she has other qualifying wages in the base period. Benefits are allowed if claimant is otherwise monetarily eligible and the account of Grapetree Medical Staffing, Inc. (account number 306907) shall not be charged.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/pjs