IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS

ARIANA L HILLARD

Claimant

APPEAL 14A-UI-11600-LT

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DECISION

RIVERSIDE STAFFING SERVICES INC

Employer

OC: 12/01/13

Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quitting Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.39(2) – Department Approved Training (DAT)

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the November 6, 2014, (reference 04) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits based upon voluntarily quitting the employment. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on December 2, 2014. Claimant participated. Employer participated through senior recruiter Karrie Minch.

ISSUE:

Did claimant voluntarily quit the employment with good cause attributable to employer?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant was employed full-time as a laborer assigned at Group O Warehouse in Milan, Illinois in February 26, 2014, and was separated from employment on February 28, 2014. The warehouse manager told her about the separation. She notified the employer of the separation the same day and asked for work but was told there was no work available at the time and the employer would contact her when they have work. On March 18 she started attending classes for her GED or High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED). She has been approved for Department Approved Training (DAT) from November 8 through November 29, 2014. Claimant intends to apply for DAT again and also ask for Training Extension Benefits (TEB) before her benefits are exhausted.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's separation was with good cause attributable to the employer.

Iowa Code § 96.5-1-j 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, but the individual shall not be disqualified if the department finds that:
- j. The individual is a temporary employee of a temporary employment firm who notifies the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment and who seeks reassignment. Failure of the individual to notify the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment within three working days of the completion of each employment assignment under a contract of hire shall be deemed a voluntary quit unless the individual was not advised in writing of the duty to notify the temporary employment firm upon completion of an employment assignment or the individual had good cause for not contacting the temporary employment firm within three working days and notified the firm at the first reasonable opportunity thereafter.

To show that the employee was advised in writing of the notification requirement of this paragraph, the temporary employment firm shall advise the temporary employee by requiring the temporary employee, at the time of employment with the temporary employment firm, to read and sign a document that provides a clear and concise explanation of the notification requirement and the consequences of a failure to notify. The document shall be separate from any contract of employment and a copy of the signed document shall be provided to the temporary employee.

For the purposes of this paragraph:

- (1) "Temporary employee" means an individual who is employed by a temporary employment firm to provide services to clients to supplement their work force during absences, seasonal workloads, temporary skill or labor market shortages, and for special assignments and projects.
- (2) "Temporary employment firm" means a person engaged in the business of employing temporary employees.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.26(19) provides:

Voluntary quit with good cause attributable to the employer and separations not considered to be voluntary quits. The following are reasons for a claimant leaving employment with good cause attributable to the employer:

(19) The claimant was employed on a temporary basis for assignment to spot jobs or casual labor work and fulfilled the contract of hire when each of the jobs was completed. An election not to report for a new assignment to work shall not be construed as a voluntary leaving of employment. The issue of a refusal of an offer of suitable work shall be adjudicated when an offer of work is made by the former employer. The provisions of lowa Code section 96.5(3) and rule 24.24(96) are controlling in the determination of suitability of work. However, this subrule shall not apply to substitute school employees who are subject to the provisions of lowa Code section 96.4(5) which denies benefits that are based on service in an educational institution when the individual declines or

refuses to accept a new contract or reasonable assurance of continued employment status. Under this circumstance, the substitute school employee shall be considered to have voluntarily quit employment.

The lowa Supreme Court has ruled that if a party has the power to produce more explicit and direct evidence than it chooses to present, the administrative law judge may infer that evidence not presented would reveal deficiencies in the party's case. *Crosser v. Iowa Dep't of Pub. Safety*, 240 N.W.2d 682 (Iowa 1976). Mindful of the ruling in *Crosser*, and noting that the claimant presented direct, first-hand testimony while the employer relied upon second-hand witnesses, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant's recollection of the events is more credible than that of the employer. The purpose of the statute is to provide notice to the temporary agency employer that the claimant is available for and seeking work at the end of the temporary assignment. Since she contacted the employer within three working days of the notification of the end of the assignment, requested reassignment, and there was no work available, benefits are allowed, provided she is otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The November 6, 2014, (reference 04) decision is reversed. The claimant's separation from employment was attributable to the employer. The employer had adequate knowledge about the conclusion of the claimant's assignment and the request for more work but had no further work available at the time. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible. The benefits withheld shall be paid to claimant. The employer's account will not be charged for periods of benefit payment while claimant is approved for DAT or TEB.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/pjs