

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU**

EMAD HASSOUN
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 22A-UI-14999-JT-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 06/14/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code Section 96.3(7) – Overpayment, Regular and Lost Wage Assistance Payments
P.L. 116-136, §2104 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On July 12, 2022, Emad Hassoun (claimant) filed a timely appeal from the July 6, 2022 (reference 02) decision that held the claimant was overpaid regular benefits, Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), and Lost Wage Assistance Payments (LWAP), due to the reference 01 decision that denied benefits effective June 14, 2020 based on the between academic terms disqualification set forth at Iowa Code section 96.4(5). After due notice was issued, a hearing was held on August 23, 2022. Claimant participated and presented additional testimony through Mike Younadam. The hearing in this matter was consolidated with the hearing in Appeal Number 22A-UI-14998-JT-T. Arabic-English interpreter Jasmine Abdullah (#14351) of CTS Language Link assisted with the hearing. Exhibit A, the online appeal, was received into evidence. The administrative law judge took official notice of the following Agency administrative records: the reference 01 and 02 decisions, DBRO, KPYX, KCCO, and WAGE-A.

ISSUES:

Whether the claimant was overpaid \$2,304.00 in regular state benefits for 12 weeks between June 14, 2020 and September 5, 2020, due to the March 20, 2021 (reference 01) decision that denied benefits effective June 14, 2020 based on the between academic terms disqualification set forth at Iowa Code section 96.4(5).

Whether the claimant was overpaid \$3,600.00 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits for six weeks between June 14, 2020 and July 25, 2020, due to the March 20, 2021 (reference 01) decision that denied benefits effective June 14, 2020 based on the between academic terms disqualification set forth at Iowa Code section 96.4(5).

Whether the claimant was overpaid \$1,800.00 in Lost Wages Assistance Payments (LWAP) for six weeks between July 26, 2020 and September 5, 2020, due to the March 20, 2021 (reference 01) decision that denied benefits effective June 14, 2020 based on the between academic terms disqualification set forth at Iowa Code section 96.4(5).

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

Emad Hassoun (claimant) established an original claim for benefits that was effective June 14, 2020. The claimant received \$2,304.00 in regular state benefits for 12 weeks between June 14, 2020 and September 5, 2020, \$3,600.00 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits for six weeks between June 14, 2020 and July 25, 2020, and \$1,800.00 in Lost Wages Assistance Payments (LWAP) for six weeks between July 26, 2020 and September 5, 2020.

On March 10, 2021, Iowa Workforce Development Benefits Bureau issued the March 10, 2021 (reference 01) decision that denied benefits effective June 14, 2020, based on the deputy's conclusion the claimant was an employee of an education institution, the claim for benefits fell between academic years or terms, and the claimant had reasonable assurance of continued employment. The reference 01 decision prompted and is the basis for the overpayment decision from which the claimant appeals in the present matter. The reference 01 decision has been affirmed in Appeal Number 22A-UI-14998-JT-T.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 96.3(7) provides, in pertinent part:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits.
 - a. If an individual receives benefits for which the individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible, even though the individual acts in good faith and is not otherwise at fault, the benefits shall be recovered. The department in its discretion may recover the overpayment of benefits either by having a sum equal to the overpayment deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual or by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to the overpayment.

PL116-136, Sec. 2104 provides, in pertinent part:

- (b) Provisions of Agreement
 - (1) Federal pandemic unemployment compensation.--Any agreement under this section shall provide that the State agency of the State will make payments of regular compensation to individuals in amounts and to the extent that they would be determined if the State law of the State were applied, with respect to any week for which the individual is (disregarding this section) otherwise entitled under the State law to receive regular compensation, as if such State law had been modified in a manner such that the amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable for any week shall be equal to
 - (A) the amount determined under the State law (before the application of this paragraph), plus
 - (B) an additional amount of \$600 (in this section referred to as "Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation").

....

(f) Fraud and Overpayments

(2) Repayment.--In the case of individuals who have received amounts of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to which they were not entitled, the State shall require such individuals to repay the amounts of such Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to the State agency, except that the State agency may waive such repayment if it determines that—

(A) the payment of such Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation was without fault on the part of any such individual; and

(B) such repayment would be contrary to equity and good conscience.

(3) Recovery by state agency —

(A) In general.—The State agency shall recover the amount to be repaid, or any part thereof, by deductions from any Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation payable to such individual or from any unemployment compensation payable to such individual under any State or Federal unemployment compensation law administered by the State agency or under any other State or Federal law administered by the State agency which provides for the payment of any assistance or allowance with respect to any week of unemployment, during the 3-year period after the date such individuals received the payment of the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to which they were not entitled, in accordance with the same procedures as apply to the recovery of overpayments of regular unemployment benefits paid by the State.

(B) Opportunity for hearing.—No repayment shall be required, and no deduction shall be made, until a determination has been made, notice thereof and an opportunity for a fair hearing has been given to the individual, and the determination has become final.

(4) Review.—Any determination by a State agency under this section shall be subject to review in the same manner and to the same extent as determinations under the State unemployment compensation law, and only in that manner and to that extent.

Because the reference 01 decision denied benefits for the period beginning June 14, 2020 and has been reversed on appeal, the benefits the claimant received for the period of June 14, 2020 through September 5, 2020 are overpayments of benefits. The claimant is overpaid \$2,304.00 in regular state benefits for 12 weeks between June 14, 2020 and September 5, 2020, \$3,600.00 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits for six weeks between June 14, 2020 and July 25, 2020, and \$1,800.00 in Lost Wages Assistance Payments (LWAP) for six weeks between July 26, 2020 and September 5, 2020. The claimant must repay the regular state benefits. The claimant must repay the FPUC and LWAP benefits, unless the claimant applies for and is approved for waiver of repayment of FPUC and LWAP benefits. See below.

DECISION:

The July 6, 2022 (reference 02) decision is affirmed. Because the reference 01 decision denied benefits for the period beginning June 14, 2020 and has been reversed on appeal, the benefits the claimant received for the period of June 14, 2020 through September 5, 2020 are overpayments of benefits. The claimant is overpaid \$2,304.00 in regular state benefits for 12 weeks between June 14, 2020 and September 5, 2020, \$3,600.00 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits for six weeks between June 14, 2020 and July 25, 2020, and \$1,800.00 in Lost Wages Assistance Payments (LWAP) for six weeks between July 26, 2020 and September 5, 2020. The claimant must repay the regular state benefits. The claimant must repay the FPUC and LWAP benefits, unless the claimant applies for and is approved for waiver of repayment of FPUC and LWAP benefits. See below.



James E. Timberland
Administrative Law Judge

September 30, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

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Note to Claimant: This decision determines you have been overpaid FPUC under the CARES Act and LWAP federal benefits. If you disagree with this decision, you may file an appeal by following the instructions on the final page of this decision. Additionally, instructions for requesting a waiver of the FPUC and LWAP overpayments can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/unemployment-insurance-overpayment>. If this decision becomes final and you are not eligible for a FPUC and LWAP waiver, you will have to repay the FPUC and LWAP benefits you received.

APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board
4th Floor – Lucas Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515)281-7191
Online: eab.iowa.gov**

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday.

AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL STATE CLEARLY:

- 1) The name, address, and social security number of the claimant.
- 2) A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
- 3) That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
- 4) The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf>.

Note to Parties: YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds.

Note to Claimant: It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

SERVICE INFORMATION:

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN. Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board
4th Floor – Lucas Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515)281-7191
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal.

UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiriera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que está en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf>.

Nota para las partes: USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

Nota para el reclamante: es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.