

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

GARY L HARJEHAUSEN
Claimant

APPEAL 19A-UI-04359-H2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 01/27/19
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Available for work
Iowa Code § 96.4(7) – Reemployment services
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.6 – Profiling for reemployment services
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e – Procedures for workers desiring to file a claim for benefits
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23 (11) – Failure to Report

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant/appellant filed an appeal from the May 16, 2019, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that found claimant was not eligible for unemployment benefits because claimant failed to participate in reemployment services. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on June 27, 2019. The claimant participated personally. Stacy Perkins, Workforce Advisor, participated on behalf of Iowa Workforce Development. Department Exhibit 1 was admitted into the record.

ISSUE:

Did the claimant fail to participate in a reemployment services class as directed or offer justifiable cause for their failure to do so?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

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

The claimant filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of January 27, 2019. Claimant was selected to participate in the reemployment services program. A notice was mailed to the claimant on March 18, 2019, which stated the claimant was to report for a reemployment and eligibility assessment appointment on April 15, 2019. The claimant did report for the appointment. At the appointment he was given a copy of and signed the RESEA agreement. The agreement provided that the claimant would attend two additional classes on May 13, 2019. The agreement specifically states, **“I understand that, if I do not complete scheduled RESEA activities within the agreed upon timeframe, it will result in the denial of unemployment insurance benefits.”** (Department Exhibit 1, emphasis in the original) The claimant knew that he was to attend the classes but mistakenly assumed he would receive another letter confirming his obligation to attend. When he had not received the additional letter by May 13, claimant simply chose not to attend the required classes. Claimant did not call his

RESEA workforce advisor to see if his assumption was incorrect, nor did he call IWD to notify anyone that he would not be attending the class. As of the date of the hearing, claimant still has not attended the required classes.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant did not provide justifiable cause for failure to report as directed to participate in reemployment services classes.

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".

Iowa Code § 96.4(7) provides:

Required findings.

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

(7) The individual participates in reemployment services as directed by the department pursuant to a profiling system, established by the department, which identifies individuals who are likely to exhaust benefits and be in need of reemployment services.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.6 provides:

Profiling for reemployment services.

(1) The department of workforce development will provide a program which consists of profiling claimants and providing reemployment services.

(2) Profiling is a systematic procedure used to identify claimants who, because of certain characteristics, are determined to be permanently separated and most likely to exhaust benefits. Such claimants may be referred to reemployment services.

b. The eligibility assessment program is used to accelerate the individual's return to work and systematically review the individual's efforts toward the same goal.

(3) Reemployment services may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. An assessment of the claimant's aptitude, work history, and interest.
- b. Employment counseling regarding reemployment approaches and plans.

- c. Job search assistance and job placement services.
- d. Labor market information.
- e. Job search workshops or job clubs and referrals to employers.
- f. Résumé preparation.
- g. Other similar services.

(4) As part of the initial intake procedure, each claimant shall be required to provide the information necessary for profiling and evaluation of the likelihood of needing reemployment assistance.

(5) The referral of a claimant and the provision of reemployment services is subject to the availability of funding and limitations of the size of the classes.

(6) A claimant shall participate in reemployment services when referred by the department unless the claimant establishes justifiable cause for failure to participate or the claimant has previously completed such training or services. Failure by the claimant to participate without justifiable cause shall disqualify the claimant from the receipt of benefits until the claimant participates in the reemployment services or eligibility assessment. The claimant shall contact the agency prior to the scheduled appointment or service to advise the department of the justifiable cause.

a. Justifiable cause for failure to participate is an important and significant reason which a reasonable person would consider adequate justification in view of the paramount importance of reemployment to the claimant. Justifiable cause includes when the claimant is scheduled for an employment interview, is verified to return to work, or both prior to the scheduled appointment or service.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa code section 96.4(7).

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e provides:

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:

e. In order to maintain continuing eligibility for benefits during any continuous period of unemployment, an individual shall report as directed to do so by an authorized representative of the department. If the individual has moved to another locality, the individual may register and report in person at a workforce development center at the time previously specified for the reporting.

(1). An individual who files a weekly continued claim will have the benefit payment automatically deposited weekly on a debit card specified by the department.

(2) The department retains the ultimate authority to choose the method of reporting and Payment.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(11) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

(11) Failure to report as directed to workforce development in response to the notice which was mailed to the claimant will result in the claimant being deemed not to meet the availability requirements.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.6(7) provides in pertinent part:

Eligibility assessment procedure.

- a. Before an individual has claimed five weeks of interstate benefits, the workforce development center shall receive a computer-selected list of individuals claiming benefits within the target population for review.
- b. No eligibility assessment will be performed on an individual unless monetary eligibility and none monetary eligibility are established.
- c. Once selected for an initial or subsequent eligibility assessment, claimants are required to participate in all components of the assessment as determined by the department.
- d. A Notice to Report shall be sent by the workforce development center to an individual who is in active status at the time of its printing. If the individual does not respond, the department must issue an appropriate failure to report decision and lock the claim to prevent payment.
- e. Selected claimants must report in person to the designated workforce development center to receive staff-assisted services for the initial assessment.
- f. Before an administrative law judge can rule on a disqualification for failure to report at an Iowa workforce development center as directed, there must be evidence to show that the individual was required to report for an interview.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.6(8) provides:

Conducting the first eligibility assessment interview.

- a. All available evidence must be examined to detect potentially disqualifying issues.
- b. The individual's need for advice, assistance or instructions must be determined and conveyed to the individual.
- c. The interview must convey to the individual the requirements that must be satisfied to maintain eligibility.
- d. This advice, assistance or instruction constitutes an understanding and agreement between the individual and the unemployment insurance representative at the conclusion of the interview regarding the individual's willingness and ability to eliminate any barriers to obtaining reemployment which otherwise would result in referral for adjudication.
- e. The individual shall be advised of what constitutes an acceptable effort to obtain reemployment in accordance with state policy, with consideration for local labor market information and the individual's occupation.
- f. The final objective of the interview is to determine whether a subsequent interview is needed. This determination shall be based on expected return to work date, job openings in the area, local labor market conditions, and other relevant factors.

If the department identifies a claimant who is likely to exhaust benefits, in order to be eligible for weekly benefits a claimant must report as directed to participate in reemployment services. Iowa Code § 96.4(7). Unemployment insurance rules require a claimant to participate in reemployment services when referred by the department unless the claimant establishes justifiable cause for failure to participate or the claimant has previously completed such training or services. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.6(6). Failure by the claimant to participate without justifiable cause shall disqualify the claimant from the receipt of benefits until the claimant participates in the reemployment services. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.6(6). Justifiable cause for failure to participate is defined as “an important and significant reason which a reasonable person would consider adequate justification in view of the paramount importance of reemployment to the claimant.” Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.6(6). The claimant shall contact the agency prior to the scheduled appointment or service to advise the department of the justifiable cause. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.6(6). Failure to report or have justifiable cause for failing to report means the claimant has failed to meet the availability requirements of the law. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e and 871-24.23(11).

Claimant did not attend the required classes. Claimant’s incorrect assumptions are not good cause reason for failing to participate in the required RESEA classes. Benefits are denied.

DECISION:

The May 16, 2019, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant has failed to report for a reemployment services appointment classes as directed. Benefits are denied effective May 16, 2019.

Teresa K. Hillary
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/rvs