

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

DONA L ROE
Claimant

DIVERSIFIED SERVICES FOR INDUSTRY
Employer

APPEAL 22A-UI-05490-ED-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**OC: 09/26/21
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able to and Available for Work
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.8(2)b – Notifying Employing Units of Claims Filed

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant/appellant filed an appeal from the February 18, 2022 (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision which found that the claimant was not able to and available for work effective September 26, 2021. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on April 12, 2022. The claimant, Dona Roe, participated personally. The employer, Diversified Services for Industry, did not participate. The administrative law judge took administrative notice of the claimant's unemployment insurance benefits records.

ISSUE:

Is the claimant Able to and Available for Work as of January 23, 2022?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

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

The claimant was hired in April 2018 as a full-time janitor. Claimant's immediate supervisor is Cassie Null. In January 2022, the claimant was away from work for nine days due to a COVID-19 diagnosis. The claimant was not well enough to work during the time she was home due to her COVID-19 diagnosis. Claimant's immediate supervisor is Cassie Null.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant is not able to and available for work effective January 23, 2022.

Iowa Code § 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 § 96.19,

subsection 38, paragraph "b", subparagraph 1, or temporarily unemployed as defined in § 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 § 96.5, subsection 3 are waived if the individual is not disqualified for benefits under § 96.5, subsection 1, paragraph "h".

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(1)a provides:

Benefits 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.

(1) *Able to work.* An individual must be physically and mentally able to work in some gainful employment, not necessarily in the individual's customary occupation, but which is engaged in by others as a means of livelihood.

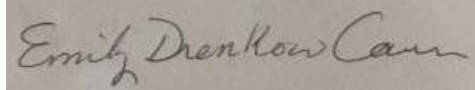
a. Illness, injury or pregnancy. Each case is decided upon an individual basis, recognizing that various work opportunities present different physical requirements. A statement from a medical practitioner is considered prima facie evidence of the physical ability of the individual to perform the work required. A pregnant individual must meet the same criteria for determining ableness as do all other individuals.

To be able to work, "[a]n individual must be physically and mentally able to work in some gainful employment, not necessarily in the individual's customary occupation, but which is engaged in by others as a means of livelihood." *Sierra v. Employment Appeal Board*, 508 N.W.2d 719, 721 (Iowa 1993); *Geiken v. Lutheran Home for the Aged*, 468 N.W.2d 223 (Iowa 1991); Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(1). "An evaluation of an individual's ability to work for the purposes of determining that individual's eligibility for unemployment benefits must necessarily take into consideration the economic and legal forces at work in the general labor market in which the individual resides." *Sierra* at 723. The court in *Gilmore v. Empl. Appeal Bd.*, 695 N.W.2d 44 (Iowa Ct. App. 2004) noted that "[i]nsofar as the Employment Security Law is not designed to provide health and disability insurance, only those employees who experience illness-induced separations that can fairly be attributed to the employer are properly eligible for unemployment benefits." *White v. Emp't Appeal Bd.*, 487 N.W.2d 342, 345 (Iowa 1992) (citing *Butts v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 328 N.W.2d 515, 517 (Iowa 1983)).

Claimant was unable to work due to her COVID-19 diagnosis. She was not well enough during her nine day quarantine period to work. Since claimant is unable to perform her work duties due to a non-work related illness and the employer is not obligated to accommodate a non-work related injury or illness, she has not established her ability to or availability for work. Benefits are denied.

DECISION:

The February 18, 2022 (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant is not able to work effective January 23, 2022. Benefits are denied.



Emily Drenkow Carr
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209
Fax (515) 478-3528

April 29, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

ed/scn

NOTE TO CLAIMANT: This decision determines you are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. If you disagree with this decision, you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision.

Individuals who do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits and were unemployed between February 2, 2020, and June 12, 2021 for reasons related to COVID-19 may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility under the program.** To apply for PUA go to <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/unemployment-insurance-appeals> and click the link in the last paragraph under "WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE HEARING."