

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

NICOLE M STANLEY
Claimant

APPEAL 18A-UI-02773-H2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 01/28/18
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(1) – Filing Claims
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)g – Retroactive Benefits

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the February 26, 2018, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied the request for retroactive benefits. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was held on March 27, 2018. Claimant participated.

ISSUE:

Should the claimant's request for retroactive benefits be granted for the three-week period ending February 17, 2018?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant filed an original claim effective January 28, 2018. She did not file her weekly continued claim for the week ending February 3 because she thought she had to wait for confirmation from Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) that her claim had been received. The claimant did not read the handbook to see if her assumption was correct. Instead of filing a weekly continued claim, the claimant filed a new application for unemployment insurance benefits on February 4, 2018. She did not file a weekly continued claim for the week ending February 10, because she mistakenly assumed she had to wait for her final paycheck that contained information about payment of vacation pay to her. Claimant was told by an IWD employee to file her weekly claim on Sunday February 10, but she chose not to do so. Claimant went to her local office in Fort Dodge on February 22, for help with her claim. Her claim was reopened effective February 18, and she began filing her weekly claims. Claimant did not read the handbook that is on the IWD website that offers information on filing claims and making weekly continued claims.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request for retroactive benefits is denied.

Iowa Code section 96.6(1) provides:

96.6 Filing — determination — appeal.

1. *Filing.* Claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such regulations as the department may prescribe.

In order to be eligible for weekly benefits, the claimant must file an online web application continued claim or show good cause for the failure to do so to support a request for retroactive benefits. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)g.

In order to be eligible for weekly benefits, the claimant must file an online web application continued claim or show good cause for the failure to do so to support a request for retroactive benefits. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)g. What parties often misunderstand about the process is that during the week in which the unemployment occurs, the claimant should open an umbrella-like “original claim” (OC) by the close of business on Friday to establish the general claim for unemployment insurance benefits. In addition, for each week the claimant remains unemployed, they must file a “weekly continued claim” (WCC) to show they are available for work, report any wages, and otherwise establish eligibility for that past week of benefit payment. That must be done sometime between Sunday and Friday of the following week (see chart below). If a claimant does not file a WCC for one week for any reason and becomes unemployed again, the process must start over by reopening the OC no later than Friday, and filing weekly continued claim sometime between the following Sunday through Friday. No filing of any kind may be done on any Saturday.

The December 2017, version of the *Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook*, provides in pertinent part at pages 13 and 14:

Claim Effective Date

The effective date of all UI claims, regardless of filing method, will be the Sunday of the week in which the application was filed. The effective date of a claim will not be changed for applications that were not filed in a timely manner.

and

Reactivating a Claim

An individual can start and stop claiming weekly benefits as many times as necessary during the benefit year. This is called a break in reporting status. Any break in reporting requires the individual to file another initial claim application during the week he/she wants to start collecting benefits again. Any employment during the break must be reported.

The December 2017, version of the *Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook*, provides in pertinent part at pages 19 and 20:

Filing Weekly Claims

How to File

After you file your initial claim, file weekly claims online at iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov for every week you are unemployed or your hours are reduced. **You must file a weekly claim for any week that you want payment even if your eligibility is being decided or you have an appeal pending.**

To request UI benefit payments during weeks of unemployment, individuals must certify they:

- Are currently unemployed or working reduced hours
- Are able to work and available for work
- Have not refused any job offers or referrals to a job
- Are actively looking for work (unless waived)
- Are reporting any pay or pension payment

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Start of UI claim week one						Last day of week one (no filing)
First day to file week one	File for week one	File for week one	File for week one	File for week one	Last day to file for week one	Last day of week two (no filing)
First day to file week two	File for week two	File for week two	File for week two	File for week two	Last day to file for week two	Last day of week three (no filing)
First day to file week three	File for week three	File for week three	File for week three	File for week three	Last day to file for week three	Last day of week four (no filing)

When to File

The current week is the week that just ended on Saturday. Weekly claims must be filed 8 am Sunday through 5:30 pm Friday for the prior week only. This means individuals have six days to file the previous week's claim. See the chart above for the days available to file. Weekly claims can be filed online using a mobile device or computer at <https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/weeklyclaims/>.

Delay in filing your weekly claim could result in denial of benefits.

IMPORTANT: You will receive confirmation that the claim has been processed successfully. If you don't receive confirmation, the process must be repeated until the claim has been successfully submitted.

Elsewhere in the December 2017, version of the handbook at page 8, contact information includes days and hours for filing a claim and weekly claim reporting:

File a Claim

Hours: Sunday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov
<https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/UIInitialClaim/>

Weekly Claim Reporting

Hours: Sunday 8:00 am – 11:30 pm and Monday through Friday 8:00 am through 5:30 pm
<https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/weeklyclaims/>

Given the claimant did not read the handbook and made assumptions that were not correct, she has not established good cause for retroactive benefits. Retroactive benefits are denied for the three-week period ending February 17, 2018.

DECISION:

The February 26, 2018, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant's request for retroactive benefits for the three-week period ending February 17, 2018 is denied.

Teresa K. Hillary
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/rvs