

**IN THE IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

TARRA A JONES
Claimant

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

APPEAL 23A-UI-11402-DB-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**OC: 12/11/22
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able to Work, Available for Work and Actively Seeking Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant/appellant filed an appeal from the November 30, 2023 (reference 07) unemployment insurance benefits decision that found the claimant was not eligible for benefits from February 19, 2023 through February 25, 2023 as she failed to engage in sufficient reemployment activities. Due notice was issued and a telephone hearing was held on December 22, 2023. The claimant participated personally. Claimant's Exhibit A was admitted. The administrative law judge took official notice of the claimant's unemployment insurance benefits records. The hearing was consolidated with other appeal matters for the claimant.

ISSUE:

Was the claimant able to work, available for work and earnestly and actively seeking work?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant filed an initial claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of December 11, 2022. She had worked as a full-time general laborer for Priority Excavating since October 14, 2021. See Exhibit A. Claimant is typically laid off in the winter months due to weather. She filed consecutive weekly continued claims from December 11, 2022 through April 1, 2023. She reported wages earned on six weekly-continued claims when she was able to work for this employer during her claim year. She reported earnings of \$0.00 for the four weekly-continued claims ending December 31, 2022; January 7, 2023; January 14, 2023; and January 21, 2023. The claimant did not engage in any job searches or reemployment activities for any weeks in which she filed weekly continued claims for benefits. She did not seek reemployment with any other employer as she was on call and waiting to be recalled by her current employer. She had been warned by Iowa Workforce Development to search for work in a previous decision.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes as follows:

Iowa Code section 96.4(3)a provides:

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

3. a. 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 96.1A, subsection 37, paragraph "b", subparagraph (1), or temporarily unemployed as defined in section 96.1A, subsection 37, 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 Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(28) provides:

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

(28) A claimant will be ineligible for benefits because of failure to make an adequate work search after having been previously warned and instructed to expand the search for work effort.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(3) provides:

Benefit 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.

(3) Earnestly and actively seeking work. Mere registration at a workforce development center does not establish that the individual is earnestly and actively seeking work. It is essential that the individual personally and diligently search for work. It is difficult to establish definite criteria for defining the words earnestly and actively. Much depends on the estimate of the employment opportunities in the area. The number of employer contacts which might be appropriate in an area of limited opportunity might be totally unacceptable in other areas. When employment opportunities are high, an individual may be expected to make more than the usual number of contacts. Unreasonable limitations by an individual as to salary, hours, or conditions of work can indicate that the individual is not earnestly seeking work. The department expects each individual claiming benefits to conduct themselves as would any normal, prudent individual who is out of work.

a. Basic requirements. An individual shall be ineligible for benefits for any period for which the department finds that the individual has failed to make an earnest and active search for work. The circumstances in each case are considered in determining whether an earnest and active search for work has been made. Subject to the foregoing, applicable actions of the following kind are considered an earnest and active search for work if found by the department to constitute reasonable means of securing work by the individual, under the facts and circumstances of the individual's particular situation:

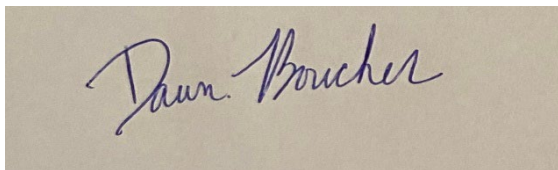
1. Making application with employers as may reasonably be expected to have openings suitable to the individual.

2. Registering with a placement facility of a school, college, or university if one is available in the individual's occupation or profession.
3. Making application or taking examination for openings in the civil service of a governmental entity with reasonable prospects of suitable work for the individual.
4. Responding to appropriate "want ads" for work which appears suitable to the individual if the response is made in writing or in person or electronically.
5. Any other action which the department finds to constitute an effective means of security work suitable to the individual.
6. No individual, however, is denied benefits solely on the ground that the individual has failed or refused to register with a private employment agency or at any other placement facility which charges the job-seeker a fee for its services. However, an individual may count as one of the work contacts required for the week an in person contact with a private employment agency.
7. An individual is considered to have failed to make an effort to secure work if the department finds that the individual has followed a course of action designed to discourage prospective employers from hiring the individual in suitable work.

The burden is on the claimant to establish that they are able to work, available for work, and actively and earnestly seeking work within the meaning of the law. Iowa Code § 96.6(2); Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22. Claimant failed to seek work and engage in at least four reemployment activities after having been previously warned. Benefits are denied from February 19, 2023 through February 25, 2023 due to her failure to engage in sufficient reemployment activities.

DECISION:

The November 30, 2023 (reference 07) unemployment insurance benefits decision is affirmed. Benefits are denied from February 19, 2023 through February 25, 2023 as the claimant failed to engage in sufficient reemployment activities.



Dawn Boucher
Administrative Law Judge

December 28, 2023
Decision Dated and Mailed

db/scn

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
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100
Des Moines, IA 50321
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. *There is no filing fee to file an appeal with the Employment Appeal Board.*

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 file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If you do not file 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 www.iowacourts.gov/efile. *There may be a filing fee to file the petition in District Court.*

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
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100
Des Moines, IA 50321
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. *No hay tarifa de presentación para presentar una apelación ante la Junta de Apelación de Empleo.*

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 no presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelación de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en una acción final de la agencia y tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en www.iowacourts.gov/efile. *Puede haber una tarifa de presentación para presentar la petición en el Tribunal de Distrito.*

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.