

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Section
1000 East Grand—Des Moines, Iowa 50319
DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
68-0157 (7-97) – 3091078 - EI**

**JENNIFER M RIEGEL
916 E RAILROAD AVE
DES MOINES IA 50309-5334**

**DES STAFFING SERVICES INC
#200
1300 CUMMINS RD
DES MOINES IA 50315**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**Appeal Number: 06A-UI-07448-MT
OC: 06/11/06 R: 02
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

This Decision Shall Become Final, unless within fifteen (15) days from the date below, you or any interested party appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by submitting either a signed letter or a signed written Notice of Appeal, directly to the **Employment Appeal Board, 4th Floor—Lucas Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319**.

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.

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.

YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in this appeal or you may 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. It is important that you file your claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

(Administrative Law Judge)

(Decision Dated & Mailed)

Section 96.4-3 - Able and Available

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated July 14, 2006, reference 04, which held claimant not able and available for work. After due notice, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled for and held on August 10, 2006. Claimant participated personally. Employer participated by Amner Martinez, Placement Specialist, and Kathy Anderson, Human Resource Coordinator. Exhibits One and A were admitted into evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant last worked for employer on November 29, 2005.

Claimant went off work due to pregnancy-related work restrictions. Claimant informed the employer of the restriction. Employer tried to find a different job to fit claimant's needs at a bindery. No work was available. Claimant did inform the employer within three days of the layoff.

Claimant was released by her doctor to return to full-duty work on July 23, 2006. Claimant did not go back to the employer after the release to request further assignment.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue in this matter is whether claimant is able and available for work.

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".

871 IAC 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.

871 IAC 24.23(35) provides:

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

(35) Where the claimant is not able to work and is under the care of a physician and has not been released as being able to work.

Inasmuch as the treating physician has released the claimant to return to work, the claimant has established the ability to work. Benefits shall be allowed effective July 23, 2006 provided claimant is otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated July 14 2006, reference 04 is reversed. Claimant is eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits, effective July 23, 2006, provided claimant meets all other eligibility requirements. Even though claimant prevailed in this decision, the 06A-UI-07447-MT decision is disqualifying unless reversed on appeal to the employment appeal board.

mdm\kjw