

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

CRYSTAL M TIMMERMAN
Claimant

APPEAL 20A-DUA-00616-S1-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 08/02/20
Claimant: Appellant (2R)

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) - Timeliness of Appeal
PL 116-136 Section 2101 – Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
20 CFR 625 – Disaster Unemployment Assistance

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Crystal Timmerman (claimant/appellant) filed an appeal from the Iowa Workforce Development decision dated July 30, 2020, reference 01, that determined claimant was not eligible for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). After a hearing notice was mailed to the claimant's last-known address of record, a telephone hearing was scheduled for November 19, 2020. The claimant waived notice and the hearing was held on October 30, 2020. The claimant participated personally.

Exhibit D-1 was received into evidence. The claimant offered and Exhibit A, B, and C were received into evidence. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative file.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the appeal is timely and, if so, whether the claimant is eligible Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: A disqualification decision was mailed to the claimant's last known address of record on July 30, 2020. The decision was never received by the claimant. The decision contained a warning that an appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeals Section by August 10, 2020. The claimant heard about the decision after calling the Agency. She researched appealing and faxed an appeal. The appeal was not received. She then sent another appeal. The appeal was filed on October 3, 2020.

The claimant worked for Endeavor Hospitality Management through October 17, 2019. She cared for two of her three children, ages two and eight, and lived with her youngest child's father, Justin Hicks. Mr. Hicks was the breadwinner of the family and worked at A & D Roofing. The claimant was self-employed cleaning houses starting on February 13, 2020.

On or about April 10, 2020, Mr. Hicks passed away as a direct result of Covid-19. At that time, there was no school or daycare. The claimant had to stop working and quarantine with her children due to pandemic closures. Now, the claimant also cares for her six-year-old child. There is no room in Head Start for the two-year old child.

The claimant filed the application for PUA and provided self-certification that she was otherwise able to work and available for work but was unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work because "A child or other person in her household for whom I am the primary care giver is unable to attend school or another facility that is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and such school or facility care is required for me to work". Telework was not available.

The claimant's base period is from the second quarter of 2019, through first quarter of 2020. In the second quarter of 2019, she has \$399.00 in wages from Radhey Lodging. In the third quarter of 2019, she has \$358.00 in wages from Endeavor Hospitality Management. In the fourth quarter of 2019, she has \$58.00 in wages from Endeavor Hospitality Management. She has no other wages in her base period. The claimant is not monetarily eligible for regular compensation or extended benefits under state or federal law or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC).

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The first issue to be considered in this appeal is whether the claimant's appeal is timely. The administrative law judge determines it is.

Iowa Code section 96.6(2) provides:

2. Initial determination. A representative designated by the director shall promptly notify all interested parties to the claim of its filing, and the parties have ten days from the date of mailing the notice of the filing of the claim by ordinary mail to the last known address to protest payment of benefits to the claimant. The representative shall promptly examine the claim and any protest, take the initiative to ascertain relevant information concerning the claim, and, on the basis of the facts found by the representative, shall determine whether or not the claim is valid, the week with respect to which benefits shall commence, the weekly benefit amount payable and its maximum duration, and whether any disqualification shall be imposed. The claimant has the burden of proving that the claimant meets the basic eligibility conditions of section 96.4. The employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to section 96.5, except as provided by this subsection. The claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence showing that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving section 96.5, subsections 10 and 11, and has the burden of proving that a voluntary quit pursuant to section 96.5, subsection 1, was for good cause attributable to the employer and that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraphs "a" through "h". Unless the claimant or other interested party, after notification or within ten calendar days after notification was mailed to the claimant's last known address, files an appeal from the decision, the decision is final and benefits shall be paid or denied in accordance with the decision. If an administrative law judge affirms a decision of the representative, or the appeal board affirms a decision of the administrative law judge allowing benefits, the benefits shall be paid regardless of any appeal which is thereafter taken, but if the decision is finally reversed, no employer's account shall be charged with benefits so paid and this relief from charges shall apply to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

The ten calendar days for appeal begins running on the mailing date. The "decision date" found in the upper right-hand portion of the representative's decision, unless otherwise corrected immediately below that entry, is presumptive evidence of the date of mailing. *Gaskins v. Unempl. Comp. Bd. of Rev.*, 429 A.2d 138 (Pa. Comm. 1981); *Johnson v. Board of Adjustment*, 239 N.W.2d 873, 92 A.L.R.3d 304 (Iowa 1976).

The claimant did not have an opportunity to appeal the fact-finder's decision because the decision was not received. Without notice of a disqualification, no meaningful opportunity for appeal exists. See *Smith v. Iowa Employment Security Commission*, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973). The claimant appealed the decision as soon as she discovered it, without benefit of instructions that would have been on the decision. Therefore, the appeal shall be accepted as timely.

The next issue is whether the claimant is eligible for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).

The CARES Act was established to provide PUA benefits to qualified individuals who were not eligible for regular compensation or extended benefits under State or Federal law or pandemic emergency unemployment compensation. PL 116-136 Section 2102(a), (b), (c), (d), and (h) provide as follows:

SEC. 2102. PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS. — In this section:

(3) COVERED INDIVIDUAL. — The term “covered individual”—

(A) means an individual who—

(i) is not eligible for regular compensation or extended benefits under State or Federal law or pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under section 2107, including an individual who has exhausted all rights to regular unemployment or extended benefits under State or Federal law or pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under section 2107; and

(ii) provides self-certification that the individual— (I) is otherwise able to work and available for work within the meaning of applicable State law, except the individual is unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work because—

(aa) the individual has been diagnosed with COVID–19 or is experiencing symptoms of COVID–19 and seeking a medical diagnosis;

(bb) a member of the individual's household has been diagnosed with COVID–19; (cc) the individual is providing care for a family member or a member of the individual's household who has been diagnosed with COVID–19;

(dd) a child or other person in the household for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school or another facility that is closed as a direct result of the COVID–19 public health emergency and such school or facility care is required for the individual to work;

(ee) the individual is unable to reach the place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a direct result of the COVID–19 public health emergency;

(ff) the individual is unable to reach the place of employment because the individual has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;

(gg) the individual was scheduled to commence employment and does not have a job or is unable to reach the job as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(hh) the individual has become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19;

(ii) the individual has to quit his or her job as a direct result of COVID-19;

(jj) the individual's place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency; or

(kk) the individual meets any additional criteria established by the Secretary for unemployment assistance under this section; or

(ll) is self-employed, is seeking part-time employment, does not have sufficient work history, or otherwise would not qualify for regular unemployment or extended benefits under State or Federal law or pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under section 2107 and meets the requirements of subclause (l); and

(B) does not include—

(i) an individual who has the ability to telework with pay; or

(ii) an individual who is receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits, regardless of whether the individual meets a qualification described in items (aa) through (kk) of subparagraph (A)(i)(l).

(b) ASSISTANCE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT AS A RESULT OF COVID-19. —

Subject to subsection (c), the Secretary shall provide to any covered individual unemployment benefit assistance while such individual is unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable to work for the weeks of such unemployment with respect to which the individual is not entitled to any other unemployment compensation (as that term is defined in section 85(b) of title 26, United States Code) or waiting period credit.

(c) APPLICABILITY. —

(1) IN GENERAL. — Except as provided in paragraph (2), the assistance authorized under subsection (b) shall be available to a covered individual — (A) for weeks of unemployment, partial unemployment, or inability to work caused by COVID-19— (i) beginning on or after January 27, 2020; and (ii) ending on or before December 31, 2020; and (B) subject to subparagraph (A)(ii), as long as the covered individual's unemployment, partial unemployment, or inability to work caused by COVID-19 continues.

(2) LIMITATION ON DURATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The total number of weeks for which a covered individual may receive assistance under this section shall not exceed 39 weeks and such total shall include any week for which the covered individual received regular compensation or extended benefits under any Federal or State law, except that if after the date of enactment of this Act, the duration of extended benefits is extended, the 39-week period described in this paragraph shall be extended by the number of weeks that is equal to the number of weeks by which the extended benefits were extended.

(d) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE. —

(1) IN GENERAL. — The assistance authorized under subsection (b) for a week of unemployment, partial unemployment, or inability to work shall be— (A)(i) the weekly benefit amount authorized under the unemployment compensation law of the State where the covered individual was employed, except that the amount may not be less than the minimum weekly benefit amount described in section 625.6 of title 20, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto; and (ii) the amount of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation under section 2104; and (B) in the case of an increase of the weekly benefit amount after the date of enactment of this Act, increased in an amount equal to such increase.

(2) CALCULATIONS OF AMOUNTS FOR CERTAIN COVERED INDIVIDUALS. — In the case of a covered individual who is self-employed, who lives in a territory described in subsection (c) or (d) of section 625.6 of title 20, Code of Federal Regulations, or who would not otherwise qualify for unemployment compensation under State law, the assistance authorized under subsection (b) for a week of unemployment *shall be calculated in accordance with section 625.6 of title 20, Code of Federal Regulations*, or any successor thereto, and shall be increased by the amount of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation under section 2104.

(emphasis added).

(h) RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE. —

Except as otherwise provided in this section or to the extent there is a conflict between this section and section 625 of title 20, Code of Federal Regulations, such section 625 shall apply to this section as if— (1) the term “COVID–19 public health emergency” were substituted for the term “major disaster” each place it appears in such section 625; and (2) the term “pandemic” were substituted for the term “disaster” each place it appears in such section 625.

In this case, the claimant is not monetarily eligible for unemployment insurance benefits funded by the State of Iowa pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.4(4)a. This is due to a lack of being paid sufficient wages in insured work during the base period. Claimant therefore meets the requirements of PL 116-136 Section 2102(a)(3)(A)(i). The claimant is otherwise able to work and available for work within the meaning of applicable State law. Telework with pay was not available. The claimant was not receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits.

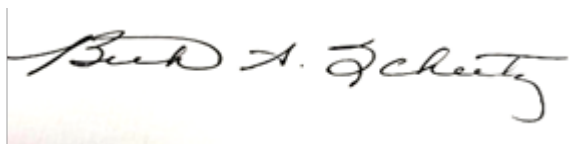
The administrative law judge finds the claimant is self-employed individual who applied for PUA because the breadwinner of the household passed away due to Covid-19, she had to quarantine after his passing, and she had to care for the children in the spring and summer months due to pandemic closures of childcare. For a claimant to be eligible for PUA, the law under PL 116-136, Section 2102(a)(3)(A)(ii) requires that the cause of the unemployment or lack of work be related to Covid-19. The claimant is eligible for PUA benefits under PL 116-136, Section 2102(a)(3)(A)(bb) and (hh).

The amount of the weekly benefit amount is remanded for determination.

DECISION:

The Iowa Workforce Development decision dated July 30, 2020, reference 01, that determined claimant was not eligible for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is reversed. The appeal was timely. The claimant is eligible for PUA benefits under PL 116-136, Section 2102(a)3(A)(bb) and (hh).

The amount of the weekly benefit amount is remanded for determination.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Beth A. Scheetz", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Beth A. Scheetz
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209
Fax (515) 478-3528

November 2, 2020
Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/scn