

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

MAKAYLA L WILKINS
Claimant

APPEAL 17A-UI-06721-NM-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

DEBNER FAMILY ENTERPRISES INC
Employer

OC: 05/07/17
Claimant: Appellant (2R)

Iowa Code § 96.3(5) – Benefit Duration - Business Closing
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.29(1) and (2) – Business Closing

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the June 30, 2017, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied the request to redetermine the claim based upon a business closure. A telephone hearing was held on July 20, 2017. The claimant participated and testified. The employer did not participate.

ISSUE:

Is the claimant eligible to have the monetary determination recalculated due to business closing?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant was separated from the employment on May 14, 2017, when the business located at 205 4th Street in Eldon, Iowa closed. Claimant was on medical leave at the time the business was closed, but was told about the planned closure on May 7, 2017. Claimant testified she goes by the building where the business was located on a daily basis and it remains vacant, with no electricity, as of the time of the hearing. Claimant further testified the entire inventory was removed on May 14 and third party vendors have removed their equipment as well.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The administrative law judge concludes that the claimant was laid off as a result of a business closure at the location where she worked and, therefore, is entitled to a redetermination of wage credits.

Iowa Code section 96.3(5)a provides:

- a. Duration of benefits. The maximum total amount of benefits payable to an eligible individual during a benefit year shall not exceed the total of the wage

credits accrued to the individual's account during the individual's base period, or twenty-six times the individual's weekly benefit amount, whichever is the lesser. The director shall maintain a separate account for each individual who earns wages in insured work. The director shall compute wage credits for each individual by crediting the individual's account with one-third of the wages for insured work paid to the individual during the individual's base period. However, the director shall recompute wage credits for an individual who is laid off due to the individual's employer going out of business at the factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual was last employed, by crediting the individual's account with one-half, instead of one-third, of the wages for insured work paid to the individual during the individual's base period. Benefits paid to an eligible individual shall be charged against the base period wage credits in the individual's account which have not been previously charged, in the inverse chronological order as the wages on which the wage credits are based were paid. However if the state "off" indicator is in effect and if the individual is laid off due to the individual's employer going out of business at the factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual was last employed, the maximum benefits payable shall be extended to thirty-nine times the individual's weekly benefit amount, but not to exceed the total of the wage credits accrued to the individual's account.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.29(1) provides:

Business closing.

(1) Whenever an employer at a factory, establishment, or other premises goes out of business at which the individual was last employed and is laid off, the individual's account is credited with one-half, instead of one-third, of the wages for insured work paid to the individual during the individual's base period, which may increase the maximum benefit amount up to 39 times the weekly benefit amount or one-half of the total base period wages, whichever is less. This rule also applies retroactively for monetary redetermination purposes during the current benefit year of the individual who is temporarily laid off with the expectation of returning to work once the temporary or seasonal factors have been eliminated and is prevented from returning to work because of the going out of business of the employer within the same benefit year of the individual. This rule also applies to an individual who works in temporary employment between the layoff from the business closing employer and the Claim for Benefits. For the purposes of this rule, temporary employment means employment of a duration not to exceed four weeks.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.29(2) provides:

(2) Going out of business means any factory, establishment, or other premises of an employer which closes its door and ceases to function as a business; however, an employer is not considered to have gone out of business at the factory, establishment, or other premises in any case in which the employer sells or otherwise transfers the business to another employer, and the successor employer continues to operate the business.

The administrative law judge concludes that the employer did close the business in its Eldon, Iowa location. Therefore, claimant is entitled to a recalculation of benefits.

During the hearing claimant provided information indicating, at the time she was notified the business was closing, she was off work following a medical procedure. Claimant indicated she was not cleared to return to work until sometime towards the end of May 2017. The issue of whether claimant was able to and available for work beginning May 7, 2017 must be remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for an initial investigation and determination.

DECISION:

The June 30, 2017, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant was laid off due to a business closure. Recalculation of benefits is allowed.

REMAND:

The issue of whether claimant is able to and available for work effective May 7, 2017 is remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for an initial investigation and determination.

Nicole Merrill
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

nm/rvs