

**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**

**MARGUERITA E ABUJOBARAH  
APT 69208  
6569 VISTA DR  
WEST DES MOINES IA 50266**

**LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA INC  
ATTN HUMAN RESOURCES  
3116 UNIVERSITY AVE  
DES MOINES IA 50311**

**Appeal Number: 05A-UI-06411-HT  
OC: 07/11/04 R: 02  
Claimant: Appellant (4)**

**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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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(Administrative Law Judge)

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(Decision Dated & Mailed)

Section 96.5(7) – Vacation Pay

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant, Marguerita Abujobarah, filed an appeal from a decision dated June 10, 2005, reference 06. The decision found her overpaid \$148.00 in unemployment benefits due to incorrectly reporting vacation pay. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on July 19, 2005. The claimant participated on her own behalf. The employer, Lutheran Services in Iowa (Lutheran Services), participated by Nurse Coordinator Julie Adair and Employee Relations Manager Marty Swanson.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony of the witnesses and having examined all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Marguerita Abujobarah's employment with Lutheran Services ended on Wednesday, May 18, 2005. She was a part-time home health aide earning \$9.18 per hour and working approximately six hours per day. After her separation she was entitled to receive 17.389 hours of paid time off for a total of \$148.41. She filed an additional claim for benefits with an effective date of May 15, 2005.

Ms. Abujobarah reported \$100.00 in earnings for the week ending May 21, 2005, and no earnings for the week ending May 28, 2005. The overpayment was based on vacation pay for the first week totaling \$99.00 and \$49.00 for the second week, resulting in an overpayment of \$148.00.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue is whether the claimant is overpaid. The judge concludes she is.

Iowa Code section 96.5-7 provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits: ...

7. Vacation pay.

a. When an employer makes a payment or becomes obligated to make a payment to an individual for vacation pay, or for vacation pay allowance, or as pay in lieu of vacation, such payment or amount shall be deemed "wages" as defined in section 96.19, subsection 41, and shall be applied as provided in paragraph "c" hereof.

b. When, in connection with a separation or layoff of an individual, the individual's employer makes a payment or payments to the individual, or becomes obligated to make a payment to the individual as, or in the nature of, vacation pay, or vacation pay allowance, or as pay in lieu of vacation, and within ten calendar days after notification of the filing of the individual's claim, designates by notice in writing to the department the period to which the payment shall be allocated; provided, that if such designated period is extended by the employer, the individual may again similarly designate an extended period, by giving notice in writing to the department not later than the beginning of the extension of the period, with the same effect as if the period of extension were included in the original designation. The amount of a payment or obligation to make payment, is deemed "wages" as defined in section 96.19, subsection 41, and shall be applied as provided in paragraph "c" of this subsection 7.

c. Of the wages described in paragraph "a" (whether or not the employer has designated the period therein described), or of the wages described in paragraph "b", if the period therein described has been designated by the employer as therein provided, a sum equal to the wages of such individual for a normal workday shall be attributed to, or deemed to be payable to the individual with respect to, the first and each subsequent workday in such period until such amount so paid or owing is exhausted. Any individual receiving or entitled to receive wages as provided herein shall be ineligible for benefits for any week in which the sums, so designated or attributed to such normal workdays, equal or exceed the individual's weekly benefit amount. If the amount so designated or

attributed as wages is less than the weekly benefit amount of such individual, the individual's benefits shall be reduced by such amount.

d. Notwithstanding contrary provisions in paragraphs "a", "b", and "c", if an individual is separated from employment and is scheduled to receive vacation payments during the period of unemployment attributable to the employer and if the employer does not designate the vacation period pursuant to paragraph "b", then payments made by the employer to the individual or an obligation to make a payment by the employer to the individual for vacation pay, vacation pay allowance or pay in lieu of vacation shall not be deemed wages as defined in section 96.19, subsection 41, for any period in excess of one week and such payments or the value of such obligations shall not be deducted for any period in excess of one week from the unemployment benefits the individual is otherwise entitled to receive under this chapter. However, if the employer designates more than one week as the vacation period pursuant to paragraph "b", the vacation pay, vacation pay allowance, or pay in lieu of vacation shall be considered wages and shall be deducted from benefits.

e. If an employer pays or is obligated to pay a bonus to an individual at the same time the employer pays or is obligated to pay vacation pay, a vacation pay allowance, or pay in lieu of vacation, the bonus shall not be deemed wages for purposes of determining benefit eligibility and amount, and the bonus shall not be deducted from unemployment benefits the individual is otherwise entitled to receive under this chapter.

The claimant was entitled to receive the equivalent of three days of vacation pay from the employer, which she failed to report when she filed her claim. She is overpaid because the vacation pay is to be deducted from her weekly benefit amount.

**DECISION:**

The representative's decision of June 10, 2005, reference 06, is affirmed. Marguerita Abujobarah is overpaid \$148.00 for the two week period ending May 28, 2005, due to the failure to report vacation pay.

bgh/kjw