

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

JOHN W MILLER

Claimant

APPEAL NO. 19A-UI-02300-S1-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

J & K CONTRACTING LLC

Employer

OC: 02/18/18

Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) - Recovery of Benefit Overpayment
Iowa Code § 96.5(5) – Proper Reporting of Wages Earned

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

John Miller (claimant) appealed from the March 13, 2019, reference 01, decision that concluded he was overpaid unemployment insurance benefits due to the receipt wages from J & K Contracting (employer) for the week ending February 16, 2019. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was scheduled for April 2, 2019. The claimant participated personally. The employer participated by Kristie Hemphill, Payroll and Benefits Coordinator.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant was overpaid unemployment insurance benefits.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony of the witness and having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant was hired on February 16, 2019, as an operator. On February 18, 2019, the claimant attended 7.5 hours of training. He did not know the employer would pay him for his hours of training. The employer did not have any other work for the claimant due to weather conditions.

On March 1, 2019, the claimant learned the employer paid him \$29.00 per hour, gross, for the 7.5 hours he was in training on February 18, 2019, in the form of a direct deposit into his bank account. These were the only hours for which he earned wages from the employer. The claimant did not file a claim for unemployment insurance benefits for the week ending February 23, 2019.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the following reasons the administrative law judge concludes the claimant was not overpaid unemployment insurance benefits.

Iowa Code section 96.3(7)a-b, as amended in 2008, provides:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits.

a. If an individual receives benefits for which the individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible, even though the individual acts in good faith and is not otherwise at fault, the benefits shall be recovered. The department in its discretion may recover the overpayment of benefits either by having a sum equal to the overpayment deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual or by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to the overpayment.

b. (1) (a) If the department determines that an overpayment has been made, the charge for the overpayment against the employer's account shall be removed and the account shall be credited with an amount equal to the overpayment from the unemployment compensation trust fund and this credit shall include both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5. The employer shall not be relieved of charges if benefits are paid because the employer or an agent of the employer failed to respond timely or adequately to the department's request for information relating to the payment of benefits. This prohibition against relief of charges shall apply to both contributory and reimbursable employers.

(b) However, provided the benefits were not received as the result of fraud or willful misrepresentation by the individual, benefits shall not be recovered from an individual if the employer did not participate in the initial determination to award benefits pursuant to section 96.6, subsection 2, and an overpayment occurred because of a subsequent reversal on appeal regarding the issue of the individual's separation from employment.

(2) An accounting firm, agent, unemployment insurance accounting firm, or other entity that represents an employer in unemployment claim matters and demonstrates a continuous pattern of failing to participate in the initial determinations to award benefits, as determined and defined by rule by the department, shall be denied permission by the department to represent any employers in unemployment insurance matters. This subparagraph does not apply to attorneys or counselors admitted to practice in the courts of this state pursuant to section 602.10101.

The administrative law judge concludes that the claimant was not overpaid unemployment insurance benefits pursuant to Iowa Code Section 96.3-7. He earned no wages from this employer for the week ending February 16, 2019.

DECISION:

The March 13, 2019, reference 01, decision, is reversed. The claimant was not overpaid unemployment insurance benefits for the week ending February 16, 2019.

Beth A. Scheetz
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/rvs