# IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU

SHON M WIGNALL Claimant

# APPEAL 22A-UI-06453-DZ-T

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DECISION

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

> OC: 03/15/20 Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment

## STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Shon M Wignall, the claimant/appellant, filed an appeal from the March 4, 2022 (reference 05) unemployment insurance (UI) decision that concluded she was overpaid REGULAR UI benefits in the amount of \$1,149.15. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on April 25, 2022. Ms. Wignall participated personally. The department did not participate in the hearing. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

#### **ISSUES:**

Has Ms. Wignall been overpaid REGULAR UI benefits?

#### FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Ms. Wignall filed an initial claim for REGULAR (state) UI benefits effective March 15, 2020. In relevant part, Ms. Wignall filed weekly continued claims and IWD paid her REGULAR (state) UI benefits in the gross amount of \$1,149.15 for four weeks between September 27, 2020 and October 24, 2020.

Almost two years after she filed her initial claim effective March 15, 2020, and over a year and four months after she had already received REGULAR (state) UI benefits, IWD issued a March 3, 2022, (reference 04) decision finding Ms. Wignall not eligible for REGULAR UI benefits because of a September 27, 2020 quit from work. Ms. Wignall appealed the decision to the Iowa Workforce Development Appeals Bureau. The administrative law judge's decision in Appeal 22A-UI-06449-DZ-T affirmed the reference 04 decision.

#### **REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes Ms. Wignall has been overpaid REGULAR (state) UI benefits.

Iowa Code §96.3(7) provides, in pertinent part:

## 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.

Per Iowa law, Ms. Wignall has been overpaid REGULAR (state) UI benefits in the gross amount of \$1,149.15 for four weeks between September 27, 2020 and October 24, 2020, which should be repaid. Ms. Wignall has been overpaid REGULAR (state) UI benefits because she is not qualified and/or eligible to receive REGULAR (state) UI benefits per the March 3, 2022, (reference 04) decision that was affirmed by the administrative law judge's decision in Appeal 22A-UI-06449-DZ-T.

#### **DECISION:**

The March 4, 2022, (reference 05) decision is AFFIRMED. Ms. Wignall has been overpaid REGULAR (state) UI benefits in the gross amount of \$1,149.15, which must be repaid.

Kentel 3rd

Daniel Zeno Administrative Law Judge Iowa Workforce Development Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau 1000 East Grand Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209 Fax 515-478-3528

May 10, 2022 Decision Dated and Mailed

dz/scn

# NOTE TO MS. WIGNALL:

- If you were unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19, you <u>may</u> qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits. You must apply for PUA benefits to determine your eligibility under the program. To apply for PUA benefits,
  - First go to <u>https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/unemployment-insurance-appeals</u>
  - Go to the "WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE HEARING" section.
  - Go to the last two sentences in that section.
  - The PUA application link is at the end of the second-to-last sentence of the section.
  - The reference number/authorization number is the pin number you used for the appeal hearing: 106449.
- If IWD finds you eligible for federal PUA benefits, you can use the PUA benefits to pay off the REGULAR (state) UI overpayment.
- If you do not apply for and are not approved for PUA, you may be required to repay the benefits you've received so far.
- Governor Reynolds ended Iowa's participation in federal pandemic-related unemployment benefit programs, including the PUA program, effective June 12, 2021. But you can still apply for PUA benefits at the link above if you were unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19 between February 2, 2020, and June 12, 2021.