

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

ASHANTI WYATT
Claimant

APPEAL 20A-UI-05039-CL-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

PARCO LTD
Employer

OC: 04/05/20
Claimant: Respondent (2)

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(10) – Able & Available – Availability Disqualifications
Iowa Code § 96.19(38)a & b – Total and Partial Unemployment
Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(2) – Same Base Period Employment
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment
PL 116-136, Sec. 2104(b) – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On June 1, 2020, the employer filed an appeal from the May 28, 2020, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that allowed benefits. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on July 1, 2020. Claimant participated personally and through her mother, Danielle Wyatt. Employer participated through human resource manager Juliet Diaz. Employer's Exhibit 1 was received.

ISSUES:

Is the claimant totally, partially, or temporarily unemployed?
Is the claimant able to and available for work?
Is the claimant still employed at the same hours and wages?
Is the employer's account subject to charge?
Was the claimant overpaid unemployment insurance benefits?
Is the claimant eligible for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant began working for employer on June 20, 2019. Claimant works for employer as a part-time crew member.

Employer is a Wendy's restaurant.

Claimant went into work on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. The manager, Gregg, told claimant that he did not need her because the dining room closed due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Claimant filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of April 5, 2020. On April 9, 2020, manager Gregg called claimant and her mother, Danielle Wyatt, and told them that claimant was valued as an employee. Gregg asked if she would like to return to work for one day per week. Danielle Wyatt told Gregg that if employer really needed claimant, she would return. Danielle Wyatt told Gregg that if employer was just offering the shift to be nice, claimant would wait until the dining room reopened and she could have her regular hours back. Danielle Wyatt was also concerned about the pandemic. Ultimately, claimant's mother made the decision claimant would not return to work at that time.

Claimant returned to work on May 16, 2020.

Since filing this claim, claimant has received regular unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$792.00 for the six weeks ending May 16, 2020, and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits in the amount of \$3,600.00 for the six weeks ending May 16, 2020.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 96.19(38) provides:

"Total and partial unemployment".

a. An individual shall be deemed "totally unemployed" in any week with respect to which no wages are payable to the individual and during which the individual performs no services.

b. An individual shall be deemed partially unemployed in any week in which either of the following apply:

(1) While employed at the individual's then regular job, the individual works less than the regular full-time week and in which the individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

(2) The individual, having been separated from the individual's regular job, earns at odd jobs less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

c. An individual shall be deemed temporarily unemployed if for a period, verified by the department, not to exceed four consecutive weeks, the individual is unemployed due to a plant shutdown, vacation, inventory, lack of work or emergency from the individual's regular job or trade in which the individual worked full-time and will again work full-time, if the individual's employment, although temporarily suspended, has not been terminated.

In order to receive regular unemployment insurance benefits under Chapter 96 of the Iowa Code, a totally unemployed claimant must establish he or she is able to and available for work. Iowa Code § 96.4(3).

In this case, the claimant is totally unemployed. So the issue is whether she is able to and available for work.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(3) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

- (3) If an individual places restrictions on employability as to the wages and type of work that is acceptable and when considering the length of unemployment, such individual has no reasonable expectancy of securing work, such individual will be deemed not to have met the availability requirements of Iowa Code section 96.4(3).

In this case, employer had work available for claimant during the time period in question. Claimant's mother made the decision that claimant would not work during that time period. Claimant was not able to and available for work. Therefore, claimant is not eligible for regular, state-funded unemployment insurance benefits.

Even though claimant is not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits under state law, she may be eligible for federally funded unemployment insurance benefits under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("Cares Act"), Public Law 116-136. Section 2102 of the CARES Act creates a new temporary federal program called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) that in general provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits. An individual receiving PUA benefits may also receive the \$600 weekly benefit amount (WBA) under the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program if he or she is eligible for such compensation for the week claimed. Claimant must apply for PUA, as noted in the instructions provided in the "Note to Claimant" below.

OVERPAYMENT

Because claimant is not eligible for regular, state-funded unemployment insurance benefits, the next issue is whether she was overpaid benefits prior to the denial decision being issued.

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) 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 § 96.8, subsection 5. . . .

The administrative law judge concludes that the claimant has been overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$792.00 pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.3(7) as claimant was not eligible for benefits during the six weeks ending May 16, 2020.

The administrative law judge additionally concludes claimant has been overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.

PL116-136, Sec. 2104 provides, in pertinent part:

(b) Provisions of Agreement

(1) Federal pandemic unemployment compensation.--Any agreement under this section shall provide that the State agency of the State will make payments of regular compensation to individuals in amounts and to the extent that they would be determined if the State law of the State were applied, with respect to any week for which the individual is (disregarding this section) otherwise entitled under the State law to receive regular compensation, as if such State law had been modified in a manner such that the amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable for any week shall be equal to

(A) the amount determined under the State law (before the application of this paragraph), plus

(B) an additional amount of \$600 (in this section referred to as "Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation").

....

(f) Fraud and Overpayments

(2) Repayment.--In the case of individuals who have received amounts of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to which they were not entitled, the State shall require such individuals to repay the amounts of such Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to the State agency...

Here, the claimant is disqualified from receiving regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Accordingly, this also disqualifies claimant from receiving Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) at this time. In addition to the regular UI benefits claimant received, she also received an additional \$3,600.00 in FPUC benefits for the six weeks ending May 16, 2020. Claimant is required to repay those benefits.

DECISION:

The May 28, 2020, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant is not able to and available for work during the time period in question. Regular unemployment insurance benefits funded by the state of Iowa are denied. Claimant is overpaid regular, state-funded unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$792.00. Claimant is overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) in the amount of \$3,600.00.



Christine A. Louis
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July 14, 2020
Decision Dated and Mailed

cal/scn

Note to Claimant: This decision determines you are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. If you disagree with this decision you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision. Individuals who do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits, but who are currently unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19 may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility under the program.** Additional information on how to apply for PUA can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>.