

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

ARACELI D BRIOSO

Claimant

APPEAL NO. 11A-UI-11889-MT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

FARMLAND FOODS INC

Employer

OC: 07/31/11

Claimant: Respondent (2R)

Section 96.5-1 – Voluntary Quit

Section 96.3-7 – Recovery of Overpayment of Benefits

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Employer filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated September 2, 2011, reference 01, which held claimant eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After due notice, a hearing was scheduled for and held on October 17, 2011. Claimant participated. Employer participated by Louis Urteaga, Human Resource Manager. Exhibit One was admitted into evidence.

ISSUE:

The issue in this matter is whether claimant quit for good cause attributable to employer.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant last worked for employer on June 20, 2011. Claimant was let go for missing too much work. Claimant went off work due to illness. Claimant had approved FMLA for a period of time. Claimant received a letter saying that she could not get any more FMLA without documentation. Claimant was unable to obtain the documentation within seven days. Claimant failed to call in July 25, 2011, July 26, 2011 and July 27, 2011. Claimant was informed that three no-call absences is a voluntary quit.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The administrative law judge holds that the evidence has failed to establish that claimant voluntarily quit for good cause attributable to employer when claimant failed to call in three days in a row. This is a voluntary quit without good cause attributable to employer as claimant abandoned her job when she stopped calling in. Benefits withheld.

Iowa Code section 96.5-1 provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

1. Voluntary quitting. If the individual has left work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the individual's employer, if so found by the department.

871 IAC 24.25(4) provides:

Voluntary quit without good cause. In general, a voluntary quit means discontinuing the employment because the employee no longer desires to remain in the relationship of an employee with the employer from whom the employee has separated. The employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.5. However, the claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving Iowa Code section 96.5, subsection (1), paragraphs "a" through "i," and subsection 10. The following reasons for a voluntary quit shall be presumed to be without good cause attributable to the employer:

(4) The claimant was absent for three days without giving notice to employer in violation of company rule.

The next issue concerns an overpayment of unemployment insurance benefits.

Iowa Code section 96.3-7, 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) 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. 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. The employer shall not be charged with the benefits.

(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.

This matter is remanded to the Claims Section for determination of an overpayment.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated September 2, 2011, reference 01, is reversed and remanded for determination of overpayment. Unemployment insurance benefits are withheld until claimant has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times claimant's weekly benefit amount, provided claimant is otherwise eligible. This matter is remanded to Claims Section for determination of overpayment.

Marlon Mormann
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

mdm/css