

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

AMY C PARKER

Claimant

APPEAL 17A-UI-01514-DG-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

HY-VEE INC

Employer

OC: 01/22/17

Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quitting

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated February 7, 2017, (reference 01) that held claimant ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After due notice, a hearing was scheduled for and held on March 2, 2017. Claimant participated. Employer participated by Meg Lorenz, Hearing Representative. Claimant's Exhibit A 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 January 15, 2017. Claimant resigned from the employment at that time because she was displeased with the store's food handling procedures.

Claimant began working for the employer in 2013. She was assigned to work in the kitchen as a food preparer, and in 2014 she transferred into the bakery where she assisted in food preparation. Claimant was transferred back into the kitchen sometime in 2015 because she was unhappy with the way things were done in the bakery. During the summer months of 2016 claimant became increasingly upset with the way food was being handled in the kitchen.

Claimant voiced her concerns about food safety to her manager Mr. Beal. Mr. Beal told claimant he would look into the issues claimant had presented to him. Mr. Beal contacted his corporate food auditor and requested that the store be subjected to random food inspections. Mr. Beal also reported the claimant's concerns to the State of Iowa so that food inspections and food safety checks might be conducted at that location.

Claimant did not feel that Mr. Beal was taking her concerns seriously so she decided she should quit on January 15, 2017. There was continued work available to claimant, and she had not been subjected to any discipline for making reports about food safety to her manager. Claimant did not contact any state or local agencies in regards to her concerns. Claimant was not

licensed by the state in connection with her occupation, and she was in no danger of losing any type of professional licensure as a result of the store's policies and practices.

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 terminated the employment relationship because she did not agree with employer's methods of handling food.

Iowa Code § 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.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.25(6) 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:

(6) The claimant left as a result of an inability to work with other employees.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.25(21) 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:

(21) The claimant left because of dissatisfaction with the work environment.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.25(22) 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:

(22) The claimant left because of a personality conflict with the supervisor.

It is the duty of the administrative law judge as the trier of fact in this case, to determine the credibility of witnesses, weigh the evidence and decide the facts in issue. *Arndt v. City of LeClaire*, 728 N.W.2d 389, 394-395 (Iowa 2007). The administrative law judge may believe all, part or none of any witness's testimony. *State v. Holtz*, 548 N.W.2d 162, 163 (Iowa App. 1996). In assessing the credibility of witnesses, the administrative law judge should consider the evidence using his or her own observations, common sense and experience. *Id.* In determining the facts, and deciding what testimony to believe, the fact finder may consider the following factors: whether the testimony is reasonable and consistent with other believable evidence; whether a witness has made inconsistent statements; the witness's appearance, conduct, age, intelligence, memory and knowledge of the facts; and the witness's interest in the trial, their motive, candor, bias and prejudice. *Id.*

Claimant has the burden of proving that the voluntary leaving was for good cause attributable to the employer. Iowa Code § 96.6(2). A voluntary leaving of employment requires an intention to terminate the employment relationship accompanied by an overt act of carrying out that intention. *Local Lodge #1426 v. Wilson Trailer*, 289 N.W.2d 608, 612 (Iowa 1980).

Individuals who leave their employment due to disparate treatment are considered to have left work due to intolerable or detrimental working conditions and their leaving is deemed to be for good cause attributable to the employer. The test is whether a reasonable person would have quit under the circumstances. See *Aalbers v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 431 N.W.2d 330 (Iowa 1988) and *O'Brien v. Emp't Appeal Bd.*, 494 N.W.2d 660 (Iowa 1993).

While claimant's leaving the employment may have been based upon good personal reasons, it was not for a good-cause reason attributable to the employer. The claimant's decision to quit because she did not agree with the supervisor about various issues was not for a good cause reason attributable to the employer. Benefits are denied.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated February 7, 2017, (reference 01) is affirmed. Unemployment insurance benefits shall be 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.

Duane L. Golden
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dlg/rvs