

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

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**MICHAEL R SCHMITZ**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 18A-UI-00102-CL-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 11/19/17  
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

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Iowa Code § 96.6(1) – Filing Claims  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)g – Retroactive Benefits

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant filed an appeal from the December 27, 2017, (reference 01), unemployment insurance decision that denied claimant's request for retroactive benefits. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled to be held on January 30, 2018. Claimant participated.

**ISSUE:**

Should the claimant's request for retroactive benefits be granted for the one-week period ending December 23, 2017?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant filed an original claim effective November 19, 2017. He did not file continued claims by online web application for the two-week period ending December 16, 2017, because he was not seeking benefits for that time period. Claimant was aware he would then need to reopen his claim in order to claim further benefits. Claimant was temporarily laid off during the one week ending December 23, 2017. Claimant reopened his claim that week before the close of business on Friday. The claim appeared to have been successfully submitted. On Sunday, December 24, 2017, claimant attempted to file his continued weekly claim but the web application would not allow him to do so. Claimant contacted Iowa Workforce Development as soon as it reopened after the holiday. Claimant was notified his claim had not been successfully reopened. Claimant then reopened the claim and requested retroactive benefits. Claimant did not earn any wages or receive any vacation or holiday pay during the one week ending December 23, 2017.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request for retroactive benefits is granted.

Iowa Code section 96.6(1) provides:

**96.6 Filing — determination — appeal.**

1. *Filing.* Claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such regulations as the department may prescribe.

In order to be eligible for weekly benefits, the claimant must file an online web application continued claim or show good cause for the failure to do so to support a request for retroactive benefits. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)g.

The December 2017, version of the *Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook*, provides in pertinent part at pages 13 and 14:

**Claim Effective Date**

The effective date of all UI claims, regardless of filing method, will be the Sunday of the week in which the application was filed. The effective date of a claim will not be changed for applications that were not filed in a timely manner.

and

**Reactivating a Claim**

An individual can start and stop claiming weekly benefits as many times as necessary during the benefit year. This is called a break in reporting status. Any break in reporting requires the individual to file another initial claim application during the week they want to start collecting benefits again. Any employment during the break must be reported.

The December 2017, version of the *Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook*, provides in pertinent part at pages 19 and 20:

**Filing Weekly Claims**

**How to File**

After you file your initial claim, file weekly claims online at [iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov) for every week you are unemployed or your hours are reduced. You must file a weekly claim for any week that you want payment even if your eligibility is being decided or you have an appeal pending.

To request UI benefit payments during weeks of unemployment, individuals must certify they:

- Are currently unemployed or working reduced hours
- Are able to work and available for work
- Have not refused any job offers or referrals to a job
- Are actively looking for work (unless waived)
- Are reporting any pay or pension payment

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Start of UI claim week one						Last day of week one (no filing)
First day to file week one	File for week one	File for week one	File for week one	File for week one	Last day to file for week one	Last day of week two (no filing)
First day to file week two	File for week two	File for week two	File for week two	File for week two	Last day to file for week two	Last day of week three (no filing)
First day to file week three	File for week three	File for week three	File for week three	File for week three	Last day to file for week three	Last day of week four (no filing)

**When to File**

The current week is the week that just ended on Saturday. Weekly claims must be filed 8 am Sunday through 5:30 pm Friday for the prior week only. This means individuals have six days to file the previous week's claim. See the chart above for the days available to file. Weekly claims can be filed online using a mobile device or computer at <https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/weeklyclaims/>.

Delay in filing your weekly claim could result in denial of benefits.

**IMPORTANT:** You will receive confirmation that the claim has been processed successfully. If you don't receive confirmation, the process must be repeated until the claim has been successfully submitted.

Elsewhere in the December 2017, version of the handbook at page 8, contact information includes days and hours for filing a claim and weekly claim reporting:

**File a Claim**

Hours: Sunday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
[www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov)  
<https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/UIInitialClaim/>

**Weekly Claim Reporting**

Hours: Sunday 8:00 am – 11:30 pm and Monday through Friday 8:00 am through 5:30 pm  
<https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/weeklyclaims/>

In this case, claimant was aware he needed to file a weekly claim each week he was seeking benefits. Claimant was aware he needed to reopen his claim before the close of business on Friday during his first week of unemployment if he had any break in reporting. Claimant attempted to comply with these instructions, but was unable to do so for unknown technical reasons. Claimant has shown a good cause reason for failing to file his weekly continued claim for the one week ending December 23, 2017. Therefore, claimant's request for retroactive benefits for the one week ending December 23, 2017, is allowed.

**DECISION:**

The December 27, 2017, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant's request for retroactive benefits is granted for the one week ending December 23, 2017. Claimant did not earn any wages or receive any vacation or holiday pay during the one week ending December 23, 2017.

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Christine A. Louis  
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Decision Dated and Mailed

cal/scn