

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Section
1000 East Grand—Des Moines, Iowa 50319
DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
68-0157 (7-97) – 3091078 - EI

GEORGE A LOMAX
RR 1 BOX A
MT CARMEL SC 29840

CRST INC
c/o TALX UCM SERVICES
PO BOX 283
ST LOUIS MO 63166-0283

Appeal Number: 05A-UI-01910-DT
OC: 01/09/05 R: 12
Claimant: Respondent (2)

This Decision Shall Become Final, unless within fifteen (15) days from the date below, you or any interested party appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by submitting either a signed letter or a signed written Notice of Appeal, directly to the **Employment Appeal Board, 4th Floor—Lucas Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.**

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday.

STATE CLEARLY

1. The name, address and social security number of the claimant.
2. A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
3. That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
4. The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in this appeal or you may obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds. It is important that you file your claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

(Administrative Law Judge)

(Decision Dated & Mailed)

Section 96.5-1 – Voluntary Leaving
Section 96.3-7 – Recovery of Overpayment of Benefits

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

CRST, Inc. (employer) appealed a representative's February 14, 2005 decision (reference 01) that concluded George A. Lomax (claimant) was qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits after a separation from employment. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on March 10, 2005. The claimant received the hearing notice and responded by calling the Appeals Section on February 28, 2005. He indicated that he would be available at the scheduled time for the hearing at telephone number 864-447-8291. However, when the administrative law judge called that number at the scheduled time for the hearing, the claimant was not available; nor did he call back to the Appeals Section as instructed when did receive a call from the administrative law. Therefore, the claimant did not participate in the hearing. Based on the evidence, the

arguments of the employer, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

ISSUE:

Did the claimant voluntarily quit for a good cause attributable to the employer?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The claimant started working for the employer on April 7, 2004. He worked full time as an over-the-road truck driver in the employer's transportation company. His last day of work was October 1, 2004. On October 5, 2004, the employer's dispatcher attempted to contact the claimant and his partner regarding another trip. She was able to contact the partner, who said they would be "ready to go," but she was unable to contact the claimant. She attempted again to contact the claimant on October 11, October 12, and October 18, but was unsuccessful. The claimant's partner ultimately returned to the employer and was assigned another partner, and the employer concluded that the claimant had abandoned his position.

The claimant established a claim for unemployment insurance benefits effective January 9, 2005. The claimant has received unemployment insurance benefits after the separation from employment in the amount of \$1,416.00.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue in this case is whether the claimant voluntarily quit, and if so, whether it was for good cause attributable to the employer.

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 provides that, 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. A voluntary leaving of employment requires an intention to terminate the employment relationship. Bartelt v. Employment Appeal Board, 494 N.W.2d 684 (Iowa 1993). The intent to quit can be inferred in certain circumstances. For example, failing to report and perform duties as assigned is considered to be a voluntary quit. 871 IAC 24.25(27). The claimant did exhibit the intent to quit and did act to carry it out. The claimant would be disqualified for unemployment insurance benefits unless he voluntarily quit for good cause.

The claimant has the burden of proving that the voluntary quit was for a good cause that would not disqualify him. Iowa Code section 96.6-2. Leaving because of unlawful, intolerable, or detrimental working conditions would be good cause. 871 IAC 24.26(3), (4). Leaving because of a dissatisfaction with the work environment or a personality conflict with a supervisor is not good cause. 871 IAC 24.25(21), (23). The claimant has not provided evidence to conclude that a reasonable person would find the employer's work environment detrimental or intolerable. O'Brien v. Employment Appeal Board, 494 N.W.2d 660 (Iowa 1993); Uniweld Products v.

Industrial Relations Commission, 277 So.2d 827 (FL App. 1973). The claimant has not satisfied his burden. Benefits are denied.

Iowa Code section 96.3-7 provides:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits. 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.

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.

Because the claimant's separation was disqualifying, benefits were paid to which the claimant was not entitled. Those benefits must be recovered in accordance with the provisions of Iowa law.

DECISION:

The representative's February 14, 2005 decision (reference 01) is reversed. The claimant voluntarily left his employment without good cause attributable to the employer. As of October 18, 2004, benefits are withheld until such time as the claimant has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times his weekly benefit amount, provided he is otherwise eligible. The claimant is overpaid benefits in the amount of \$1,416.00.

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