

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

JASON E SEDLACEK
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 13A-UI-09723-S2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**L A LEASING INC
SEDONA STAFFING**
Employer

OC: 06/02/13
Claimant: Respondent (2)

Section 96.5-3-a – Refusal of Suitable Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

L.A. Leasing (employer) appealed a representative's August 14, 2013 decision (reference 07) that concluded Jason Sedlacek (claimant) was eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on September 26, 2013. The claimant participated personally. The employer participated by Colleen McGuinty, Unemployment Benefits Administrator. The employer offered and Exhibit One was received into evidence.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant refused an offer of suitable work.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant worked as a temporary worker from October 9, 2012, to July 17, 2013. On July 22, 2013, the employer offered the claimant work at Tannery-Waterloo starting immediately. The claimant would work first shift and earn \$480.00 per week. It was a temp-to-hire position. The claimant filed his claim for unemployment insurance benefits on June 2, 2013. His average weekly wage was \$272.80. The claimant refused the work because the work was 22 miles from his home and he wanted a job that was closer.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow the administrative law judge concludes the claimant did not accept an offer of suitable work.

Iowa Code section 96.5-3-a provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

3. Failure to accept work. If the department finds that an individual has failed, without good cause, either to apply for available, suitable work when directed by the department or to accept suitable work when offered that individual. The department shall, if possible, furnish the individual with the names of employers which are seeking employees. The individual shall apply to and obtain the signatures of the employers designated by the department on forms provided by the department. However, the employers may refuse to sign the forms. The individual's failure to obtain the signatures of designated employers, which have not refused to sign the forms, shall disqualify the individual for benefits until requalified. To requalify for benefits after disqualification under this subsection, the individual shall work in and be paid wages for insured work equal to ten times the individual's weekly benefit amount, provided the individual is otherwise eligible.

a. In determining whether or not any work is suitable for an individual, the department shall consider the degree of risk involved to the individual's health, safety, and morals, the individual's physical fitness, prior training, length of unemployment, and prospects for securing local work in the individual's customary occupation, the distance of the available work from the individual's residence, and any other factor which the department finds bears a reasonable relation to the purposes of this paragraph. Work is suitable if the work meets all the other criteria of this paragraph and if the gross weekly wages for the work equal or exceed the following percentages of the individual's average weekly wage for insured work paid to the individual during that quarter of the individual's base period in which the individual's wages were highest:

- (1) One hundred percent, if the work is offered during the first five weeks of unemployment.
- (2) Seventy-five percent, if the work is offered during the sixth through the twelfth week of unemployment.
- (3) Seventy percent, if the work is offered during the thirteenth through the eighteenth week of unemployment.
- (4) Sixty-five percent, if the work is offered after the eighteenth week of unemployment.

However, the provisions of this paragraph shall not require an individual to accept employment below the federal minimum wage.

The work was offered within four weeks of the claimant's unemployment and was required to provide the claimant wages 100 percent of those paid to the claimant during the highest quarter of his base period. The evidence establishes that the claimant would have received at least 100 percent of his average weekly wages during his highest quarter of earnings. Based on the factors found in Iowa Code section 96.5-3-a, the work offered to the claimant was suitable work. Twenty-two miles is not too far to commute to a job. The claimant is not qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

DECISION:

The representative's August 14, 2013, decision (reference 07) is reversed. The claimant is not qualified to receive benefits.

Beth A. Scheetz
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/css