

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

STEVEN L HERMAN
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 11A-EUCU-00714-LT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 12/26/10
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) - Recovery of Benefit Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the September 8, 2011 (reference 01) decision that found the claimant overpaid benefits for the one week ending August 6, 2011. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on October 26, 2011. Claimant participated. Claimant's Exhibit A was admitted to the record.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether claimant incorrectly reported wages and is overpaid as a result.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant reported wages of \$140.00 for the week ending August 6 when paid during the week ending August 20, 2011 when he found out he had been paid for training time. He did not earn wages during the week ending August 20, 2011. IWD deducted those wages from benefits for the week ending August 20, 2011.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant correctly reported wages for the week ending August 20 instead of August 6, 2011 and is not overpaid as a result because IWD already deducted wages from benefits for the week ending August 20, 2011.

Iowa Code § 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.

871 IAC 23.2(2) provides:

Definition of wages for employment during a calendar quarter.

(2) Wages paid. Wages for employment during a calendar quarter consist of wages paid during the calendar quarter. Wages earned but not paid during the calendar quarter shall be considered as wages for employment in the quarter paid. The Employer's Contribution and Payroll Report Form 65-5300, shall be used as prima facie evidence of when the wages were paid. If the wages are not listed on the 65-5300, they shall be considered as paid:

- a. On the date appearing on the check.
- b. On the date appearing on the notice of direct deposit.
- c. On the date the employee received the cash payment.
- d. On the date the employee received any other type of payment in lieu of cash.

871 IAC 23.3(1) provides:

(1) "Wages" means all remuneration for personal services, including commissions and bonuses and the cash value of all remuneration in any medium other than cash. Wages also means wages in lieu of notice, separation allowance, severance pay, or dismissal pay. The reasonable cash value of remuneration in any medium other than cash shall be estimated and determined in accordance with rule 23.2(96).

Since claimant did not earn wages in both weeks but merely reported the wages when paid rather than earned for the week in question, there was no overpayment of benefits.

DECISION:

The September 8, 2011 (reference 01) decision is reversed. Wages were correctly reported. The claimant was not overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$74.00.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/css