

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

CALLEY L STEERE
Claimant

COMMUNITY UNITY CHILDCARE
Employer

APPEAL 22A-UI-06011-JC-T
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 03/22/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment
Iowa Code § 96.5(5) – Wages
Iowa Code § 96.1A(37) – Total and Partial Unemployment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the March 1, 2022, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision that concluded claimant was overpaid \$226.00 in regular unemployment insurance benefits. After proper notice, a telephone hearing was conducted on April 19, 2022. The hearing was held together with Appeals 22A-UI-06013-JC-T. The claimant participated. The employer participated through Jay Mattson. Official notice of the administrative records was taken.

ISSUES:

Is claimant overpaid benefits?
Is the claimant totally, partially or temporarily unemployed?
Did the claimant correctly report wages earned?
Is the claimant eligible for benefits based on the wages earned?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant established a claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of March 22, 2020. Claimant's weekly benefit amount (WBA) was \$299.00.

Claimant began employment for this employer on August 9, 2021. Claimant is employed as a full-time teacher, and was earning \$14.66 per hour during the period of February 28, 2021 and March 13, 2021.

Claimant filed weekly continued claims for the period of February 28, 2021 and March 13, 2021. During this period, claimant was partially unemployed. She worked all available hours.

IWD conducted an audit of the claim, and contacted the employer to verify the claimant's wages earned with employer, Community United Childcare (See fact-finding documents). A review of the administrative file reflects the claimant did not report the same wages at the employer.

Because the claimant did not accurately report her wages during this same period, an overpayment of \$226.00 was determined by IWD (See fact-finding documents). Claimant did not dispute wages reported by employer.

The agency established the overpayment based upon the following wages and payments made to the claimant: (See fact-finding documents)

WEEK ENDING	WAGES REPORTED BY CLAIMANT	WAGES EARNED	BENEFITS PAID	BENEFITS ENTITLED	OVERPAYMENT
March 6, 2021	\$250.00	\$351.00	\$123.00	\$0	\$123.00
March 13, 2021	\$154.00	\$257.00	\$219.00	\$116.00	\$103.00
			TOTAL		\$226.00

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge affirms the initial decision.

Iowa Code section 96.3(3) provides:

3. Partial unemployment. An individual who is partially unemployed in any week as defined in section 96.1A, subsection 37, paragraph "b", and who meets the conditions of eligibility for benefits shall be paid with respect to that week an amount equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount less that part of wages payable to the individual with respect to that week in excess of one-fourth of the individual's weekly benefit amount. The benefits shall be rounded to the lower multiple of one dollar.

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

3. The individual is able to work, is available for work, and is earnestly and actively seeking work. *This subsection is waived if the individual is deemed partially unemployed, while employed at the individual's regular job, as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "b", subparagraph (1), or temporarily unemployed as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "c".* The work search requirements of this subsection and the disqualification requirement for failure to apply for, or to accept suitable work of section 96.5, subsection 3, are waived if the individual is not disqualified for benefits under section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraph "h".

(emphasis added).

Iowa Code section 96.1A(37) provides:

Totally unemployed", "partially unemployed", and "temporarily unemployed.

a. An individual shall be deemed "totally unemployed" in any week with respect to which no wages are payable to the individual and during which the individual performs no services.

b. An individual shall be deemed “partially unemployed” in any week in which either of the following apply:

(1) While employed at the individual's then regular job, the individual works less than the regular full-time week and in which the individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

(2) The individual, having been separated from the individual's regular job, earns at odd jobs less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

c. An individual shall be deemed “temporarily unemployed” if for a period, verified by the department, not to exceed four consecutive weeks, the individual is unemployed due to a plant shutdown, vacation, inventory, lack of work or emergency from the individual's regular job or trade in which the individual worked full-time and will again work full-time, if the individual's employment, although temporarily suspended, has not been terminated.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.18 provides:

Wage-earnings limitation. An individual who is partially unemployed may earn weekly a sum equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount plus \$15 before being disqualified for excessive earnings. If such individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus \$15, the formula for wage deductions shall be a sum equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount less that part of wages, payable to the individual with respect to that week and rounded to the lower multiple of one dollar, in excess of one-fourth of the individual's weekly benefit amount.

Iowa Code section 96.3(7) provides, in pertinent part:

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.

Based on claimant's reporting of wages for the two-week period ending March 13, 2021, she was deemed to be partially unemployed and received partial benefits. However, following an audit by IWD, it was determined that claimant actually earned more wages than initially reported. No evidence was presented that the wages reported by the employer to IWD were inaccurate or incorrect. Consequently, the claimant was able to collect both wages and unemployment insurance benefits each week.

For the week ending March 6, 2021, claimant earned wages in excess of her weekly benefit amount plus \$15, and therefore, does not meet the definition of being eligible for benefits for that week. See Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.18. Because claimant received \$123.00 in unemployment benefits, she is overpaid \$123.00 for this week.

For the week ending March 13, 2021, claimant was partially unemployed based upon wages earned. She was entitled to partial benefits. However, because the amount she reported was less than wages actually earned, she was overpaid partial benefits in the amount of \$103.00 (Claimant was entitled to \$116.00 based upon earning wages of \$257.00 for the week).

In total, claimant was overpaid \$226.00 for the two-week period ending March 13, 2021.

DECISION:

The March 1, 2022 (reference 03) is affirmed. The claimant was overpaid \$226.00 in regular unemployment insurance benefits, which must be repaid.



Jennifer L. Beckman
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April 21, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

jlb/kmj