

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

DANIELLE R PATTEN
2417 – 49TH ST
DES MOINES IA 50310

CITICORP CREDIT SERVICES INC USA
C/o TALX UC EXPRESS
PO BOX 283
ST LOUIS MO 63166-0283

Appeal Number: 05A-UI-03742-S2T
OC: 03/27/05 R: 02
Claimant: Appellant (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 96.3-5 – Layoff Due to Business Closing

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Danielle Patten (claimant) appealed a representative's April 6, 2005 decision (reference 01) that determined that her request to have her unemployment insurance claim redetermined as a business closing was denied. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on April 29, 2005. The claimant participated personally. Citicorp Credit Services (employer) did not provide a telephone number where it could be reached and, therefore, did not participate.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant was hired in November 2003, as a full-time customer service representative. On March 16, 2005, the employer laid the claimant off for lack of work along with numerous other employees. The employer closed its business operation.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue presented in this appeal is whether the claimant was laid off due to her employer going out of business and, therefore, is entitled to have her wage credits recomputed. The administrative law judge concludes that the claimant was laid off as a result of the employer going out of business.

Iowa Code section 96.3-5 provides:

5. Duration of benefits. The maximum total amount of benefits payable to an eligible individual during a benefit year shall not exceed the total of the wage credits accrued to the individual's account during the individual's base period, or twenty-six times the individual's weekly benefit amount, whichever is the lesser. The director shall maintain a separate account for each individual who earns wages in insured work. The director shall compute wage credits for each individual by crediting the individual's account with one-third of the wages for insured work paid to the individual during the individual's base period. However, the director shall recompute wage credits for an individual who is laid off due to the individual's employer going out of business at the factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual was last employed, by crediting the individual's account with one-half, instead of one-third, of the wages for insured work paid to the individual during the individual's base period. Benefits paid to an eligible individual shall be charged against the base period wage credits in the individual's account which have not been previously charged, in the inverse chronological order as the wages on which the wage credits are based were paid. However if the state "off indicator" is in effect and if the individual is laid off due to the individual's employer going out of business at the factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual was last employed, the maximum benefits payable shall be extended to thirty-nine times the individual's weekly benefit amount, but not to exceed the total of the wage credits accrued to the individual's account.

871 IAC 24.29(2) provides:

(2) Going out of business means any factory, establishment, or other premises of an employer which closes its door and ceases to function as a business; however, an employer is not considered to have gone out of business at the factory, establishment, or other premises in any case in which the employer sells or otherwise transfers the business to another employer, and the successor employer continues to operate the business.

The administrative law judge concludes that the employer went out of business. Going out of business means any factory, establishment, or other premises of an employer which closes its door and ceases to function as a business. The claimant's testimony establishes that the employer closed its doors at the premises in Des Moines, Iowa. There is no evidence that the employer's premises in Des Moines was sold or transferred and a successor employer continued to operate the business. Accordingly, the administrative law judge concludes that the employer is considered to have gone out of business and, as a consequence, the claimant was laid off due to her employer going out of business and the claimant is, therefore, entitled to a recomputation of her wage credits.

DECISION:

The representative's April 6, 2005 decision (reference 01) is reversed. The claimant was laid off due to a business closure. Recalculation of benefits is allowed.

bas/sc