

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

QUINTON SAYLEE
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 08A-UI-06108-BT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

EXPRESS SERVICES INC
Employer

**OC: 05/18/08 R: 03
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.4-3 - Able and Available for Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Quinton Saylee (claimant) appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated June 27, 2008, reference 01, which held that he was not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits because he voluntarily quit his employment with Express Services, Inc. (employer) without good cause attributable to the employer. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on July 17, 2008. The claimant participated in the hearing. The employer participated through Chris Wundram, Sales Executive. Based on the evidence, the arguments of the parties, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant is able and available for work.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant was employed with this temporary employment agency since October 24, 2007. He has subsequently worked full-time temporary assignments as a general laborer. The claimant was removed from his last assignment at Adidas on May 12, 2008 due to attendance. He is still eligible for assignments with the employer and is ready to work.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue to be determined is whether the claimant is able and available for work. In order for an individual to be eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits, the evidence in the record must establish that he is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. See Iowa Code § 96.4(3) and 871 IAC 24.22. An individual must be physically and mentally able to work in some gainful employment, not necessarily in the individual's customary occupation, but that which is engaged in by others as a means of livelihood. 871 IAC 24.22(1).

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", unnumbered paragraph 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".

871 IAC 24.22(2) provides:

Benefits eligibility conditions. For an individual to be eligible to receive benefits the department must find that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. The individual bears the burden of establishing that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work.

(2) Available for work. The availability requirement is satisfied when an individual is willing, able, and ready to accept suitable work which the individual does not have good cause to refuse, that is, the individual is genuinely attached to the labor market. Since, under unemployment insurance laws, it is the availability of an individual that is required to be tested, the labor market must be described in terms of the individual. A labor market for an individual means a market for the type of service which the individual offers in the geographical area in which the individual offers the service. Market in that sense does not mean that job vacancies must exist; the purpose of unemployment insurance is to compensate for lack of job vacancies. It means only that the type of services which an individual is offering is generally performed in the geographical area in which the individual is offering the services.

The claimant has the burden of proof in establishing his ability and availability for work. Davoren v. Iowa Employment Security Commission, 277 N.W.2d 602 (Iowa 1979). He was removed from his last assignment for attendance but continues to be eligible for new assignments with the employer. He is ready to work and needs to continue to check with the employer for new assignments. The claimant meets the availability requirements of the law and qualifies for benefits, provided he is otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The unemployment insurance decision dated June 27, 2008, reference 01, is reversed. The claimant meets the availability requirements of the law and qualifies for unemployment insurance benefits, provided he is otherwise eligible.

Susan D. Ackerman
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

sda/kjw