

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**JUSTIN D BIELEFELD**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 10A-UI-17861-HT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**WINNEBAGO INDUSTRIES**  
Employer

**OC: 10/24/10**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.5(1) – Quit

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant, Justin Bielefeld, filed an appeal from a decision dated December 9, 2010, reference 02. The decision disqualified him from receiving unemployment benefits. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on February 9, 2011. The claimant participated on his own behalf. The employer, Winnebago, participated by Personnel Supervisor Gary McCarthy.

The claimant elected to use a cell phone and was advised it was not recommended. He was notified if the connection was lost during the hearing the administrative law judge would not call back until he contacted the Appeals Section to indicate the cell phone was working again or to provide the number of another phone, but the hearing would proceed without his participation and might very well be over by the time he called back. The administrative law judge discovered at 10:06 a.m. the connection had been lost although the exact time the cell phone disconnected is not known. The claimant was still on the line at the end of the opening statement and did take the oath. By the time the record was closed at 10:07 a.m. he had not contacted the Appeals Section to rejoin the hearing.

**ISSUE:**

The issue is whether the claimant quit work with good cause attributable to the employer.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Justin Bielefeld was employed by Winnebago from October 12, 2009 until April 1, 2010 as a full-time production worker. On April 1, 2010, he walked off the job without notifying his supervisor, manager or lead person, and without punching out. After discovering the claimant had left, the supervisor questioned other employees. All anyone could say was that Mr. Bielefeld had been on his cell phone talking with someone and then he left without saying anything to anyone.

The claimant did not attempt to contact his supervisor, manager, lead person or the personnel department at any time after April 1, 2010. Continuing work was available to him had he not walked off the job without notice.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code section 96.5-1 provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

1. Voluntary quitting. If the individual has left work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the individual's employer, if so found by the department.

The record establishes the claimant quit by walking off the job without permission and not returning to work after that. Because the claimant did not participate long enough to provide any testimony, there is nothing to establish why he left before the end of his shift. It must be concluded he quit without good cause attributable to the employer and is disqualified.

**DECISION:**

The representative's decision of December 9, 2010, reference 02, is affirmed. Justin Bielefeld is disqualified and benefits are withheld until he has earned ten times his weekly benefit amount, provided he is otherwise eligible.

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Bonny G. Hendricksmeier  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

bgh/css