

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

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VAN G MILLER & ASSOCIATES INC
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Appeal Number: 06A-UI-06830-DT
OC: 06/04/06 R: 12
Claimant: Appellant (1)

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 96.5-1 – Voluntary Leaving

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Sherry A. Gillespie (claimant) appealed a representative's June 27, 2006 decision (reference 01) that concluded she was not qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits after a separation from employment from Van G. Miller & Associates, Inc. (employer). After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on July 26, 2006. The claimant participated in the hearing. Nancy Demro appeared on the employer's behalf. 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:

Did the claimant voluntarily quit for a good cause attributable to the employer?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The claimant started working for the employer on August 30, 2004. She most recently worked full-time as an intake patient care coordinator in the employer's homecare equipment function of its medical equipment buying group. Her last day of work was June 2, 2006. On May 22, 2006, the claimant had provided the employer with notice of her intent to quit effective June 2. Her reason for quitting was to move with her husband, who had accepted a transfer from his employer to a location out of Iowa, at least four hours away from the employer's facility in Waterloo at which the claimant had worked.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue in this case is whether the claimant voluntarily quit, and if so, whether it was for good cause attributable to the employer.

Iowa Code § 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.

871 IAC 24.25 provides that, in general, a voluntary quit means discontinuing the employment because the employee no longer desires to remain in the relationship of an employee with the employer from whom the employee has separated. The claimant did express her intent not to return to work with the employer. A voluntary leaving of employment requires an intention to terminate the employment relationship. Bartelt v. Employment Appeal Board, 494 N.W.2d 684 (Iowa 1993). The claimant did exhibit the intent to quit and did act to carry it out. The claimant would be disqualified for unemployment insurance benefits unless she voluntarily quit for good cause.

The claimant has the burden of proving that the voluntary quit was for a good cause that would not disqualify her. Iowa Code § 96.6-2. The regulations adopted under that provision specify that ending employment in order to move to another locality to be with a spouse is not good cause attributable to the employer. 871 IAC 24.25(2), (10). While the claimant had a good personal reason for ending her employment, she has not satisfied her burden. Benefits are denied.

DECISION:

The representative's June 27, 2006 decision (reference 01) is affirmed. The claimant voluntarily left her employment without good cause attributable to the employer. As of June 2, 2006, benefits are withheld until such time as the claimant has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times her weekly benefit amount, provided she is otherwise eligible.

ld/cs