

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

PAMELA K KLINGENBERG
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 14A-UI-10154-NT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

HEGG MEMORIAL HEALTH CENTER
Employer

OC: 02/02/14
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Section 96.5-7 – Vacation Pay Correctly Deducted

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from a representative's decision dated September 22, 2014, reference 02, which held the claimant not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits for the five weeks ending March 8, 2014 upon a finding that the claimant received or was entitled to receive vacation pay which equaled or exceeded her weekly benefit amount. After due notice was provided, a telephone hearing held on October 21, 2014. The claimant participated. Although duly notified, the employer did not participate.

ISSUE:

At issue is whether the claimant received vacation pay at separation, if the amount is deductible, if so whether the amount was deducted for the correct period.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant was separated on February 27, 2014 from Hegg Health Center. The claimant received \$968 at the time of separation from her employer for accrued PTO/vacation time based upon the claimant's rate of pay of \$14.84 per hour. The employer did designate the period of time to which the vacation pay was to be applied. Ms. Klingenberg did not initially report the vacation pay/PTO payout because she had not been alerted to her responsibility to do so by Iowa Workforce Development employees when she called to obtain information about filing a claim.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow the administrative law judge concludes that the vacation pay was deducted for the correct period.

Iowa Code section 96.5(7) provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits: ...

7. Vacation pay.

a. When an employer makes a payment or becomes obligated to make a payment to an individual for vacation pay, or for vacation pay allowance, or as pay in lieu of vacation, such payment or amount shall be deemed "wages" as defined in § 96.19, subsection 41, and shall be applied as provided in paragraph "c" hereof.

b. When, in connection with a separation or layoff of an individual, the individual's employer makes a payment or payments to the individual, or becomes obligated to make a payment to the individual as, or in the nature of, vacation pay, or vacation pay allowance, or as pay in lieu of vacation, and within ten calendar days after notification of the filing of the individual's claim, designates by notice in writing to the department the period to which the payment shall be allocated; provided, that if such designated period is extended by the employer, the individual may again similarly designate an extended period, by giving notice in writing to the department not later than the beginning of the extension of the period, with the same effect as if the period of extension were included in the original designation. The amount of a payment or obligation to make payment, is deemed "wages" as defined in § 96.19, subsection 41, and shall be applied as provided in paragraph "c" of this subsection 7.

c. Of the wages described in paragraph "a" (whether or not the employer has designated the period therein described), or of the wages described in paragraph "b", if the period therein described has been designated by the employer as therein provided, a sum equal to the wages of such individual for a normal workday shall be attributed to, or deemed to be payable to the individual with respect to, the first and each subsequent workday in such period until such amount so paid or owing is exhausted. Any individual receiving or entitled to receive wages as provided herein shall be ineligible for benefits for any week in which the sums, so designated or attributed to such normal workdays, equal or exceed the individual's weekly benefit amount. If the amount so designated or attributed as wages is less than the weekly benefit amount of such individual, the individual's benefits shall be reduced by such amount.

d. Notwithstanding contrary provisions in paragraphs "a", "b", and "c", if an individual is separated from employment and is scheduled to receive vacation payments during the period of unemployment attributable to the employer and if the employer does not designate the vacation period pursuant to paragraph "b", then payments made by the employer to the individual or an obligation to make a payment by the employer to the individual for vacation pay, vacation pay allowance or pay in lieu of vacation shall not be deemed wages as defined in § 96.19, subsection 41, for any period in excess of one week and such payments or the value of such obligations shall not be deducted for any period in excess of one week from the unemployment benefits the individual is otherwise entitled to receive under this chapter. However, if the employer designates more than one week as the vacation period pursuant to paragraph "b", the vacation pay, vacation pay allowance, or pay in lieu of vacation shall be considered wages and shall be deducted from benefits.

e. If an employer pays or is obligated to pay a bonus to an individual at the same time the employer pays or is obligated to pay vacation pay, a vacation pay allowance, or pay in lieu of vacation, the bonus shall not be deemed wages for purposes of determining benefit eligibility and amount, and the bonus shall not be deducted from unemployment benefits the individual is otherwise entitled to receive under this chapter.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.16(3) provides:

(3) If the employer fails to properly notify the department within ten days after the notification of the filing of the claim that an amount of vacation pay, either paid or owed, is to be applied to a specific vacation period, the entire amount of the vacation pay shall be applied to the one-week period starting on the first workday following the last day worked as defined in subrule 24.16(4). However, if the individual does not claim benefits after layoff for the normal employer workweek immediately following the last day worked, then the entire amount of the vacation pay shall not be deducted from any week of benefits.

Because the employer did designate a time period to which the vacation pay/PTO was to apply, the entire amount was not deducted from the claimant's first week of benefits but was prorated beginning with the claimant's first five days of unemployment following her separation and until the vacation/PTO pay, which is considered to be wages, had been deducted for the period of time designated by the employer.

DECISION:

The representative's decision dated September 22, 2014, reference 02, is affirmed. The vacation pay was properly deducted for the correct period.

Terence P. Nice
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

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