

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

MAUREEN M BEHNE
Claimant

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

APPEAL 21A-UI-07514-AW-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 11/08/20
Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Eligibility – Able to, available for, work search
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e – Eligibility – A&A – Failure to report
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(11) – Eligibility – A&A – Failure to report

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from the March 12, 2021 (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on May 24, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Claimant participated. Iowa Workforce Development participated through Christina Watson, RESEA Advisor. Claimant's Exhibit A was admitted. Department's Exhibits 1 – 2 were admitted. Official notice was taken of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Whether claimant is able to and available for work.
Whether claimant failed to report as directed by a department representative.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant participated in a telephone conference with RESEA Advisor Christina Watson on March 8, 2021. During the call, Watson told claimant that she must participate in a class online on March 11, 2021 and that she would receive an email with additional information and a link for class. Claimant did not receive the email.

On March 10, 2021, claimant contacted Iowa Workforce Development via email and requested the link for the class she was expected to attend the next day. Claimant received no response from IWD. Claimant did not attend the class on March 11, 2021.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes claimant has established a good cause reason for having failed to report as directed. Benefits are allowed.

Iowa Code section 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".

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e provides:

Procedures for workers desiring to file a claim for benefits for unemployment insurance.

1. Section 96.6 of the employment security law of Iowa states that claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such rules as the department prescribes. The department of workforce development accordingly prescribes:

e. In order to maintain continuing eligibility for benefits during any continuous period of unemployment, an individual shall report as directed to do so by an authorized representative of the department. If the individual has moved to another locality, the individual may register and report in person at a workforce development center at the time previously specified for the reporting.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(11) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

11. Failure to report as directed to workforce development in response to the notice which was mailed to the claimant will result in the claimant being deemed not to meet the availability requirements.

Claimant did not receive the email with the link for the class she was required to attend on March 11, 2021. Claimant contacted Iowa Workforce Development on March 10, 2021 requesting the link, but received no response. Claimant has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed. Claimant is able to and available for work. Benefits are allowed provided claimant is otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The March 12, 2021 (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. Claimant is able to and available for work. Benefits are allowed provided claimant is otherwise eligible.



Adrienne C. Williamson
Administrative Law Judge
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June 11, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

acw/kmj