

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

JANNA L WIDMAN
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 17A-UI-00619-S1-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

SIOUX CITY MOTOR COMPANY
Employer

**OC: 12/25/16
Claimant: Respondent (4)**

Section 96.5-1 - Voluntary Quit
Section 96.5-2-a – Discharge for Misconduct
Section 96.3-7 – Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Sioux City Motor Company (employer) appealed a representative's January 13, 2017, decision (reference 01) that concluded Janna Widman (claimant) was eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits from December 11, 2016, to January 14, 2017. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was scheduled for February 8, 2017. The claimant participated personally. The employer participated by Roxanne Flammang, Office Manager.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant was separated from employment for any disqualifying reason.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant was hired on August 24, 2015, as a full-time receptionist. On December 23, 2016, the claimant tendered her resignation effective January 13, 2017. She quit work due to the fast paced work environment. On December 26, 2016, the employer terminated the claimant. The employer was changing payroll systems. It found it easier to terminate the claimant's employment rather than to transfer her records to another system.

The claimant filed for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of December 25, 2016. The employer participated personally at the fact finding interview on January 11, 2017, by Roxanne Flammang.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow the administrative law judge concludes the claimant voluntarily quit work without good cause attributable to the employer. Prior to her last day of work the employer discharged the claimant but has not proven misconduct.

Iowa Code § 96.5-2-a provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

2. Discharge for misconduct. If the department finds that the individual has been discharged for misconduct in connection with the individual's employment:

a. The individual shall be disqualified for benefits until the individual has worked in and has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times the individual's weekly benefit amount, provided the individual is otherwise eligible.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.32(1)a provides:

Discharge for misconduct.

(1) Definition.

a. "Misconduct" is defined as a deliberate act or omission by a worker which constitutes a material breach of the duties and obligations arising out of such worker's contract of employment. Misconduct as the term is used in the disqualification provision as being limited to conduct evincing such willful or wanton disregard of an employer's interest as is found in deliberate violation or disregard of standards of behavior which the employer has the right to expect of employees, or in carelessness or negligence of such degree of recurrence as to manifest equal culpability, wrongful intent or evil design, or to show an intentional and substantial disregard of the employer's interests or of the employee's duties and obligations to the employer. On the other hand mere inefficiency, unsatisfactory conduct, failure in good performance as the result of inability or incapacity, inadvertencies or ordinary negligence in isolated instances, or good faith errors in judgment or discretion are not to be deemed misconduct within the meaning of the statute.

This definition has been accepted by the Iowa Supreme Court as accurately reflecting the intent of the legislature. *Huntoon v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 275 N.W.2d 445, 448 (Iowa 1979).

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.25(38) provides:

Voluntary quit without good cause. 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 employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.5. However, the claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving Iowa Code section 96.5, subsection (1), paragraphs "a" through "i," and subsection 10. The following reasons for a voluntary quit shall be presumed to be without good cause attributable to the employer:

(38) Where the claimant gave the employer an advance notice of resignation which caused the employer to discharge the claimant prior to the proposed date of resignation, no disqualification shall be imposed from the last day of work until the proposed date of resignation; however, benefits will be denied effective the proposed date of resignation.

The employer has the burden of proof in establishing disqualifying job misconduct. *Cosper v. Iowa Department of Job Service*, 321 N.W.2d 6 (Iowa 1982). The employer has not met its burden of proof to show job related misconduct. The claimant was terminated after giving notice of her resignation. The claimant is eligible to receive benefits until the date of her resignation, January 14, 2016.

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.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.25(21) provides:

Voluntary quit without good cause. 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 employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.5. However, the claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving Iowa Code section 96.5, subsection (1), paragraphs "a" through "i," and subsection 10. The following reasons for a voluntary quit shall be presumed to be without good cause attributable to the employer:

(21) The claimant left because of dissatisfaction with the work environment.

A voluntary leaving of employment requires an intention to terminate the employment relationship accompanied by an overt act of carrying out that intention. *Local Lodge #1426 v. Wilson Trailer*, 289 N.W.2d 608, 612 (Iowa 1980). The claimant's intention to voluntarily leave work was evidenced by her words and actions. She told the employer that she was leaving in three weeks. When an employee quits work because she is dissatisfied with the work environment, her leaving is without good cause attributable to the employer. The claimant left work because she did not like her busy work environment. Her leaving was without good cause attributable to the employer. The claimant voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer. The claimant is not qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits as of January 15, 2017.

DECISION:

The representative's January 13, 2017, decision (reference 01) is modified in favor of the appellant. The claimant is qualified to receive benefits provided she is otherwise eligible from December 25, 2016, until January 14, 2017. On January 15, 2016, the claimant voluntarily left work without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are withheld until she has worked in and has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times her weekly benefit amount provided she is otherwise eligible.

Beth A. Scheetz
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/rvs