

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**MELANIE J CUMMINGS-LEWIS**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 08A-UI-07673-NT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**SCI FUNERAL SERVICES OF IOWA**  
Employer

**OC: 07/27/08 R: 12  
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.5-1 – Voluntary Quit

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Melanie J. Cummings-Lewis filed an appeal from a representative's decision dated August 15, 2008, reference 01, which denied benefits based upon her separation from SCI Funeral Services of Iowa. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone on September 9, 2008. The claimant participated personally. Participating as a witness for the claimant was Calvin Lewis. The employer participated by Steve Zaks, hearing representative, and witness Daniel Fisher, manager.

**ISSUE:**

At issue in this matter is whether the claimant quit for good cause attributable to the employer.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and having considered all the evidence in the record, finds: The claimant worked for this employer from September 17, 2005, until May 30, 2008, when she voluntarily quit employment to relocate to a different geographic area. Ms. Cummings-Lewis was employed as a full-time office manager and was paid by the hour. Work continued to be available to the claimant at the time of her leaving.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The question is whether the evidence in the record establishes that Ms. Cummings-Lewis left with good cause attributable to the employer. It does not.

The claimant is not qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits if she quit without good cause attributable to the employer. Iowa Code section 96.5-1. The evidence in the record establishes that the claimant's reason for leaving this employment was her desire to relocate to a different geographic area for personal reasons. While the claimant's decision to quit and move to another area was based upon good personal reasons, it is not a good-cause reason attributable to the employer for leaving. Benefits must be denied.

**DECISION:**

The representative's decision dated August 15, 2008, reference 01, is affirmed. The claimant voluntarily left her employment without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are withheld until such time as she has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times her weekly benefit amount, provided she is otherwise eligible.

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Terence P. Nice  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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