

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

RAVEN C SMALLEY
Claimant

Y M C A OF OMAHA/COUNCIL BLUFFS
Employer

APPEAL 20A-UI-12911-DG-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 06/28/20
Claimant: Respondent (1R)

Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quitting – Layoff Due to Lack of Work
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.1(113) – Definitions – Separations

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Employer filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated October 14, 2020, (reference 01) that held claimant eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After due notice, a hearing was scheduled for and held on December 15, 2020. Claimant participated. Employer participated by Janica Blasko, Human Resources Director.

ISSUE:

The issue in this matter is whether the claimant was laid off due to a lack of work?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant last worked for employer on March 15, 2020. Claimant was laid off work on that date after employer had to close its business pursuant to a mandate from Governor Reynolds.

Later in late May, 2020 employer began recalling employees to work. Employer was not able to contact claimant. Sometime in early July, 2020 claimant called employer and reported that she would not be returning to work.

The issue of whether claimant refused an offer of suitable work should be remanded to the claims department for a determination.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant was laid off due to a lack of work.

Iowa Code section 96.5(1) provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits, regardless of the source of the individual's wage credits:

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. 871-24.1 provides:

Definitions. Unless the context otherwise requires, the terms used in these rules shall have the following meaning. All terms which are defined in Iowa Code chapter 96 shall be construed as they are defined in Iowa Code chapter 96.

24.1(113) *Separations.* All terminations of employment, generally classifiable as layoffs, quits, discharges, or other separations.

a. *Layoffs.* A layoff is a suspension from pay status initiated by the employer without prejudice to the worker for such reasons as: lack of orders, model changeover, termination of seasonal or temporary employment, inventory-taking, introduction of laborsaving devices, plant breakdown, shortage of materials; including temporarily furloughed employees and employees placed on unpaid vacations.

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)c,(2),(3) provide that group "1" claimants are those who no longer meet the definition of group "3" claimants if they are temporarily unemployed for a period "not to exceed four consecutive weeks" because of a lack of work.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2)c provides:

Benefit eligibility conditions. For an individual to be eligible to receive benefits the department must find that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. The individual bears the burden of establishing that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work.

(2) *Available for work.* The availability requirement is satisfied when an individual is willing, able, and ready to accept suitable work which the individual does not have good cause to refuse, that is, the individual is genuinely attached to the labor market. Since, under unemployment insurance laws, it is the availability of an individual that is required to be tested, the labor market must be described in terms of the individual. A labor market for an individual means a market for the type of service which the individual offers in the geographical area in which the individual offers the service. Market in that sense does not mean that job vacancies must exist; the purpose of unemployment insurance is to compensate for lack of job vacancies. It means only that the type of services which an individual is offering is generally performed in the geographical area in which the individual is offering the services.

c. Intermittent employment. An individual cannot restrict employability to only temporary or intermittent work until recalled by a regular employer.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(27) provides:

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

(27) Failure to report on a claim that a claimant made any effort to find employment will make a claimant ineligible for benefits during the period. Mere registration at the workforce development center does not establish that a claimant is able and available for suitable work. It is essential that such claimant must actively and earnestly seek work.

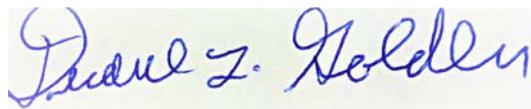
Note to Claimant: If this decision determines you are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits and you disagree with this decision, you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision. Individuals who do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits, but who are currently unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19 may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility under the program.** Additional information on how to apply for PUA can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>. If this decision becomes final, or if you are not eligible for PUA, you may have an overpayment of benefits.

DECISION:

The October 14, 2020, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant was laid off due to a lack of work. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

REMAND:

The issue of whether the claimant refused to accept a suitable offer of work is remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for a fact-finding interview and unemployment insurance decision.



Duane L. Golden
Administrative Law Judge

December 29, 2020
Decision Dated and Mailed

dlg/scn