

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**MEGAN C WILSHUSEN**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 16A-UI-10664-S1-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**CARLISLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**  
Employer

**OC: 08/21/16**  
**Claimant: Respondent (1/R)**

Section 96.5-3-a – Refusal of Suitable Work

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Carlisle Community School District (employer) appealed a representative's September 22, 2016 decision (reference 01) that concluded Megan Wilshusen (claimant) was eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits because there was no offer of work. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was scheduled for October 14, 2016. The claimant participated personally. The employer participated by Brandon Eighmy, Director of Human Resources. Exhibit D-1 was received into evidence.

**ISSUE:**

The issue is whether the claimant refused an offer of suitable work.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant worked as a full-time teacher from June 20, 2007, to May 27, 2016. On March 1, 2016, the employer offered the claimant another job. The claimant refused. The claimant filed her claim for unemployment insurance benefits on August 21, 2016.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the following reasons the administrative law judge concludes the claimant did not refuse an offer of suitable work.

Iowa Code § 96.5(3)a provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

3. Failure to accept work. If the department finds that an individual has failed, without good cause, either to apply for available, suitable work when directed by the department or to accept suitable work when offered that individual. The department shall, if possible, furnish the individual with the names of employers which are seeking employees. The individual shall apply to and obtain the signatures of the employers designated by the

department on forms provided by the department. However, the employers may refuse to sign the forms. The individual's failure to obtain the signatures of designated employers, which have not refused to sign the forms, shall disqualify the individual for benefits until requalified. To requalify for benefits after disqualification under this subsection, the individual shall work in and be paid wages for insured work equal to ten times the individual's weekly benefit amount, provided the individual is otherwise eligible.

a. (1) In determining whether or not any work is suitable for an individual, the department shall consider the degree of risk involved to the individual's health, safety, and morals, the individual's physical fitness, prior training, length of unemployment, and prospects for securing local work in the individual's customary occupation, the distance of the available work from the individual's residence, and any other factor which the department finds bears a reasonable relation to the purposes of this paragraph. Work is suitable if the work meets all the other criteria of this paragraph and if the gross weekly wages for the work equal or exceed the following percentages of the individual's average weekly wage for insured work paid to the individual during that quarter of the individual's base period in which the individual's wages were highest:

(a) One hundred percent, if the work is offered during the first five weeks of unemployment.

(b) Seventy-five percent, if the work is offered during the sixth through the twelfth week of unemployment.

(c) Seventy percent, if the work is offered during the thirteenth through the eighteenth week of unemployment.

(d) Sixty-five percent, if the work is offered after the eighteenth week of unemployment.

(2) However, the provisions of this paragraph shall not require an individual to accept employment below the federal minimum wage.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.24(8) provides:

(8) Refusal disqualification jurisdiction. Both the offer of work or the order to apply for work and the claimant's accompanying refusal must occur within the individual's benefit year, as defined in subrule 24.1(21), before the Iowa code subsection 96.5(3) disqualification can be imposed. It is not necessary that the offer, the order, or the refusal occur in a week in which the claimant filed a weekly claim for benefits before the disqualification can be imposed.

The offer of work was made by the employer to the claimant on March 1, 2016. The claimant filed her claim for benefits on August 21, 2016. The claimant refused work before she had a claim for unemployment insurance benefits on file. If there is no valid claim for unemployment insurance benefits on file, there can be no disqualification if work is refused. The claimant is qualified to receive benefits provided she is otherwise eligible.

The issue of the claimant's separation from employment is remanded for determination.

**DECISION:**

The representative's September 22, 2016, decision (reference 01) is affirmed. The claimant is qualified to receive benefits provided she is otherwise eligible. The issue of the claimant's separation from employment is remanded for determination.

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Beth A. Scheetz  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/rvs