

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**JENNIFER A MARTIN**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 11A-UI-11699-NT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 09/26/10**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.3-7 – Recovery of Overpayment

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant appealed a representative's decision dated August 26, 2011, reference 04, that concluded the claimant was overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$1,794.00 for the 47 weeks between September 26, 2010 and August 20, 2011 as the result of a disqualification decision. A telephone hearing was scheduled for and held on September 29, 2011. The claimant did participate.

**ISSUE:**

At issue in this matter is whether Jennifer Martin has been overpaid job insurance benefits.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: The overpayment issue in this case was created by a disqualification decision that has now become final. (See 11A-UI-11698-NT).

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code section 96.3-7, as amended in 2008, provides:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits.

a. If an individual receives benefits for which the individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible, even though the individual acts in good faith and is not otherwise at fault, the benefits shall be recovered. The department in its discretion may recover the overpayment of benefits either by having a sum equal to the overpayment deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual or by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to the overpayment.

b. (1) If the department determines that an overpayment has been made, the charge for the overpayment against the employer's account shall be removed and the account shall be credited with an amount equal to the overpayment from the unemployment compensation trust fund and this credit shall include both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5. However, provided the benefits were not received as the result of fraud or willful misrepresentation by the individual, benefits shall not be recovered from an individual if the employer did not participate in the initial determination to award benefits pursuant to section 96.6, subsection 2, and an overpayment occurred because of a subsequent reversal on appeal regarding the issue of the individual's separation from employment. The employer shall not be charged with the benefits.

(2) An accounting firm, agent, unemployment insurance accounting firm, or other entity that represents an employer in unemployment claim matters and demonstrates a continuous pattern of failing to participate in the initial determinations to award benefits, as determined and defined by rule by the department, shall be denied permission by the department to represent any employers in unemployment insurance matters. This subparagraph does not apply to attorneys or counselors admitted to practice in the courts of this state pursuant to section 602.10101.

The administrative law judge concludes the claimant is overpaid \$1,794.00 pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.3-7 as the disqualification decision that created the overpayment decision has now become final. (See Appeal No. 11A-UI-11698-NT). The Iowa Employment Security Law does not provide or contemplate a forgiveness clause which would allow the administrative law judge to forgive the overpayment issue to the claimant. As the evidence in the record establishes that Ms. Martin received the overpayment that she was not entitled, the claimant is overpaid unemployment insurance benefits and is liable to make repayment to Iowa Workforce Development for the benefits paid in error.

**DECISION:**

The decision of the representative dated August 26, 2011, reference 04, is affirmed. The claimant is overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$1,794.00.

---

Terence P. Nice  
Administrative Law Judge

---

Decision Dated and Mailed

pjs/pjs