

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

DARI L HOOSMAN
Claimant

CG ACQUISITION CO
Employer

APPEAL 21A-UI-04598-DG-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**OC: 04/19/20
Claimant: Appellant (4)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work
Iowa Code § 96.19(38)b – Definitions – Total, partial unemployment
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2)j – Benefit Eligibility Conditions – Leave of Absence
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(10) – Availability Disqualifications – Leave of Absence

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated January 28, 2021, (reference 03) that held claimant not able to and available for work. After due notice, a hearing was scheduled for and held on April 12, 2021. Claimant participated personally. Employer failed to respond to the hearing notice and did not participate. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUE:

The issue in this matter is whether claimant is able and available for work.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant was able to work and available to work for one week beginning on December 27, 2020 because she was laid off work for that one week period.

Claimant began working for employer as a full-time inspector in November, 2018. On or about December 27, 2020 claimant was laid off from work because of a lack of work. She returned to work on January 4, 2021 and began working her regular full-time hours after that date.

Claimant received holiday pay during that period of time. She reported those wages to the department.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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. 871-24.22(1)a provides:

Benefits 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.

(1) *Able to work.* An individual must be physically and mentally able to work in some gainful employment, not necessarily in the individual's customary occupation, but which is engaged in by others as a means of livelihood.

a. *Illness, injury or pregnancy.* Each case is decided upon an individual basis, recognizing that various work opportunities present different physical requirements. A statement from a medical practitioner is considered prima facie evidence of the physical ability of the individual to perform the work required. A pregnant individual must meet the same criteria for determining ableness as do all other individuals.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(35) provides:

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

(35) Where the claimant is not able to work and is under the care of a medical practitioner and has not been released as being able to work.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(10) provides:

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

(10) The claimant requested and was granted a leave of absence, such period is deemed to be a period of voluntary unemployment and shall be considered ineligible for benefits for such period.

Iowa Code section 96.19(38) provides:

"Total and partial unemployment".

a. An individual shall be deemed *"totally unemployed"* in any week with respect to which no wages are payable to the individual and during which the individual performs no services.

b. An individual shall be deemed partially unemployed in any week in which either of the following apply:

(1) While employed at the individual's then regular job, the individual works less than the regular full-time week and in which the individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

(2) The individual, having been separated from the individual's regular job, earns at odd jobs less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

c. An individual shall be deemed temporarily unemployed if for a period, verified by the department, not to exceed four consecutive weeks, the individual is unemployed due to a plant shutdown, vacation, inventory, lack of work or emergency from the individual's regular job or trade in which the individual

worked full-time and will again work full-time, if the individual's employment, although temporarily suspended, has not been terminated.

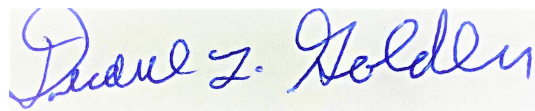
To be able to work, "[a]n individual must be physically and mentally able to work in some gainful employment, not necessarily in the individual's customary occupation, but which is engaged in by others as a means of livelihood." *Sierra v. Emp't Appeal Bd.*, 508 N.W.2d 719, 721 (Iowa 1993); *Geiken v. Lutheran Home for the Aged*, 468 N.W.2d 223 (Iowa 1991); Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(1). "An evaluation of an individual's ability to work for the purposes of determining that individual's eligibility for unemployment benefits must necessarily take into consideration the economic and legal forces at work in the general labor market in which the individual resides." *Sierra* at 723. This means that when evaluating whether a person with a protected disability is able and available to work we must take into account the reasonable accommodation requirements imposed on employers under federal, state, and local laws. *Id.*

Claimant was laid off work for the one week ending January 2, 2021. Claimant is eligible for benefits during that one week period. Any holiday pay she received should be deducted from her benefit payment.

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 decision of the representative dated January 28, 2021, (reference 03) is modified in favor of the appellant. Claimant is eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits for the one week ending January 2, 2021 only, if she is otherwise available for benefits. Any holiday pay she received during that period should be deducted from her benefit amount.



Duane L. Golden
Administrative Law Judge

April 20, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

dlg/kmj