## BEFORE THE EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD

Lucas State Office Building Fourth floor Des Moines, Iowa 50319

:

**CASSIE MILLARD HARNEY** 

**HEARING NUMBER: 20B-UI-05367** 

Claimant

.

and

EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD

DECISION

WESTERN HOME SERVICES INC

:

**Employer** 

## NOTICE

**THIS DECISION BECOMES FINAL** unless (1) a **request for a REHEARING** is filed with the Employment Appeal Board within **20 days** of the date of the Board's decision or, (2) a **PETITION TO DISTRICT COURT** IS FILED WITHIN **30 days** of the date of the Board's decision.

A REHEARING REQUEST shall state the specific grounds and relief sought. If the rehearing request is denied, a petition may be filed in **DISTRICT COURT** within **30 days** of the date of the denial.

**SECTION:** 96.4-3, 96.3-7

## DECISION

## UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ARE DENIED

The Claimant appealed this case to the Employment Appeal Board. The members of the Employment Appeal Board reviewed the entire record. The Appeal Board finds the administrative law judge's decision is correct. The administrative law judge's Findings of Fact and Reasoning and Conclusions of Law are adopted by the Board as its own. The administrative law judge's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

We point out to the Claimant that although the Claimant is denied benefits under state unemployment law, **this does not bar receipt of certain special pandemic related benefits**. In fact, being ineligible from state unemployment benefits is a prerequisite to some of these benefits. Of particular interest to the Claimant is Pandemic Unemployment Assistance [PUA]. That law provides benefits to persons who are unavailable for work due to certain pandemic related reasons. Such persons may be able to collect PUA during any week this situation persists, going back to February 8, 2020 (for a maximum of 39 weeks). The federal Department of Labor has instructed that **eligible persons would include**:

An individual whose immune system is compromised by virtue of a serious health condition and is therefore advised by a health care provider to self quarantine in order to avoid the greater-than-average health risks that the individual might face if he or she were to become infected by the coronavirus.

UIPL 16-20, Attachment 1, p. I-5 (https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/UIPL/UIPL\_16-20\_Attachment\_1.pdf).

It is further our understanding that federal law requires all PUA claims to be backdated to as early as February 8, depending on when the applicant's self-quarantine began. The upshot is that if Claimant can make the necessary PUA showing of a need for self-quarantine Claimant may very well be eligible for PUA for any week such a quarantine was or is in place, and so is well-advised to pursue this avenue of federal benefits through Iowa Workforce. **Our ruling today is no bar to PUA.** 

Should the Claimant wish to apply for PUA, and the information on how to do so if found at:

https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information

	Ashley R. Koopmans	
	James M. Strohman	
DD 4 /C	Myron R. Linn	

RRA/fnv