

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

RANDALL D PHILLIPPE
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 09A-UI-19496-LT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 01/04/09
Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the December 22, 2009 (reference 03) decision that denied benefits. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was held on February 2, 2010. Claimant participated and was represented by Jeff Tronvold, Attorney at Law.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether claimant voluntarily left the employment with good cause attributable to the employer.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant most recently worked full time as a millwright and was separated from employment on November 4, 2009 when foreman Matt Murphy told him he was laid off. He reported back to the Millwright Local 2158 union for assignment to other employment and worked the week ending December 27, 2009 for Blonick Construction. He reported wages for that week. He is available for and seeks full-time employment. The December 12, 2009 (reference 02) representative's decision, which has become final, determined the claimant's pension allowance from Carpenter's Pension Fund of Rockford, Illinois is not deductible from benefits.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant is able to work and available for work.

Iowa Code § 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".

871 IAC 24.22(2) 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.

(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.

Since claimant is available for and is seeking full-time employment and has no restriction on employability, benefits are allowed.

DECISION:

The December 22, 2009, reference 03, decision is reversed. The claimant is able to work and available for work effective November 1, 2009. Benefits are allowed.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/css