

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

JAMES SANDERS
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 14A-UI-09834-ET

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

TSI ENTERPRISES INC
Employer

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 06/08/14
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) - Recovery of Benefit Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant appealed the September 19, 2014, reference 02, representative's decision that concluded the claimant is obligated to repay unemployment insurance benefits in the gross amount of \$5,790.00 for the 14-week period ending September 13, 2014, as a result of an Employment Appeal Board disqualification decision dated September 17, 2014. A telephone hearing was held on October 10, 2014, pursuant to due notice. The claimant participated in the hearing. Sarah Fiedler, Human Resources Generalist, participated in the hearing on behalf of the employer.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether claimant received and is obligated to repay the gross amount of unemployment insurance benefits received for the period in question.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The overpayment issue in this case was created by a separation disqualification decision of the Employment Appeal Board in a decision dated September 17, 2014. The employer participated in the initial fact-finding interview regarding the separation from employment. The claimant did receive gross benefits in the amount of \$5,790.00 for the 14-week period ending September 13, 2014.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The administrative law judge concludes claimant has been overpaid benefits for the period in question.

Iowa Code § 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 that the employer did participate in the fact-finding interview. Although the claimant did not engage in any fraud or willful misrepresentation to obtain the benefits, he received benefits to which he was not entitled according to the Employment Appeal Board's separation decision referenced above. Those benefits must be recovered in accordance with the provisions of Iowa law.

DECISION:

The September 19, 2014, reference 02, representative's decision is affirmed. The claimant has received unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$5,790.00 to which he was not entitled and those benefits must be recovered in accordance with Iowa law.

Julie Elder
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

je/pjs