

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTION AND APPEALS  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU**

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**LAURIE L LOFTUS**  
Claimant

**SULLY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
Employer

**APPEAL 22A-UI-19836-B2-T**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 03/15/20**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

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Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment  
Iowa Code § 96.5(5) – Wages  
Iowa Code § 96.19(38)a & b – Total and Partial Unemployment  
Fed Law PL 116-136, Sec. 2107 – Overpayment of PEUC

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant filed an appeal from the December 7, 2022, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that concluded claimant was overpaid \$374.00 in PEUC unemployment insurance benefits. After proper notice, a telephone hearing was conducted on January 13, 2023. The claimant participated. Employer participated with witness Bethany Tanke. Official notice of the administrative records was taken.

**ISSUES:**

Is claimant overpaid PEUC benefits?  
Is the claimant totally, partially or temporarily unemployed?  
Did the claimant correctly report wages earned?  
Is the claimant eligible for benefits based on the wages earned?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant established a claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of March 15, 2020. Claimant's weekly benefit amount (WBA) was \$374.00.

Claimant began employment for this employer on May 23, 2011. Claimant was employed earning \$13.32 per hour at the time of her job separation.

Claimant filed weekly continued claims for the period of March 21, 2020 and March 27, 2021. During this period, claimant was temporarily and totally unemployed.

IWD conducted an audit of the claim, and contacted the employer to verify the claimant's wages earned with employer, Sully Christian School (See fact-finding documents). A review of the administrative file reflects the claimant did not report the same wages at the employer.

Because the claimant did not accurately report the final payout of her accrued vacation amount paid out as a final payment upon job separation, an overpayment of \$374.00 was determined by IWD. Claimant did initially dispute wages reported by employer.

The agency established the overpayment based upon the following wages and payments made to the claimant:

WEEK ENDING	WAGES REPORTED	WAGES EARNED	BENEFITS PAID	BENEFITS ENTITLED	OVERPAYMENT
12-5-20	0.00	423.04	374.00	0.00	374.00
			<b>NET TOTAL</b>		374.00

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes as follows

Iowa Code section 96.3(3) provides:

3. Partial unemployment. An individual who is partially unemployed in any week as defined in section 96.1A, subsection 37, paragraph "b", and who meets the conditions of eligibility for benefits shall be paid with respect to that week an amount equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount less that part of wages payable to the individual with respect to that week in excess of one-fourth of the individual's weekly benefit amount. The benefits shall be rounded to the lower multiple of one dollar.

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", subparagraph (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".

(emphasis added).

Iowa Code § 96.19(38)b provides:

As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

38. "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.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.18 provides:

Wage-earnings limitation. An individual who is partially unemployed may earn weekly a sum equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount plus \$15 before being disqualified for excessive earnings. If such individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus \$15, the formula for wage deductions shall be a sum equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount less that part of wages, payable to the individual with respect to that week and rounded to the lower multiple of one dollar, in excess of one-fourth of the individual's weekly benefit amount.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-23.3(1) provides:

(1) "Wages" means all remuneration for personal services, including commissions and bonuses and the cash value of all remuneration in any medium other than cash. Wages also means wages in lieu of notice, separation allowance, severance pay, or dismissal pay. The reasonable cash value of remuneration in any medium other than cash shall be estimated and determined in accordance with rule 23.2(96).

Iowa Code section 96.3(7) provides, in pertinent part:

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.

PL 116-136 Sec 2107 provides in pertinent part:

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

(2) PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT. —

Any agreement under paragraph (1) shall provide that the State agency of the State will make payments of pandemic emergency unemployment compensation to individuals who—

(A) have exhausted all rights to regular compensation under the State law or under Federal law with respect to a benefit year (excluding any benefit year that ended before July 1, 2019);

(B) have no rights to regular compensation with respect to a week under such law or any other State unemployment compensation law or to compensation under any other Federal law;

(C) are not receiving compensation with respect to such week under the unemployment compensation law of Canada; and

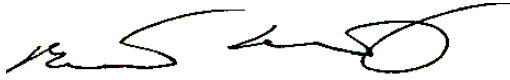
(D) are able to work, available to work, and actively seeking work.

The credible evidence in this case is that claimant received \$374.00 in PEUC unemployment insurance benefits for the week ending December 5, 2020 based upon wages initially reported. However, following an audit by IWD, it was determined that claimant actually earned more wages than initially reported once the vacation benefit was added into the calculation. No evidence was presented that the wages reported by the employer to IWD were inaccurate or incorrect. Consequently, the claimant was able to collect both wages and unemployment insurance benefits for that week.

Based upon the wages earned, claimant was not eligible for benefits because claimant earned \$423.04 for the week ending December 5, 2020 through a payout of vacation hours accrued. This amount earned is more than \$15.00 over claimant's weekly benefit amount of \$374.00, thereby disqualifying her from the receipt of benefits for the week ending December 5, 2020. As a result, the claimant was overpaid PEUC benefits in the amount of \$374.00, to which claimant was not entitled. The administrative law judge concludes therefore, that the overpayment was correctly calculated.

**DECISION:**

The December 7, 2022 (reference 02) is affirmed. The claimant was overpaid \$374.00 in PEUC unemployment insurance benefits, which must be repaid.



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**Blair Bennett** | Administrative Law Judge II  
Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals

January 17, 2023  
Decision Dated and Mailed

bab/scn

**APPEAL RIGHTS.** If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor – Lucas Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
Online: [eab.iowa.gov](http://eab.iowa.gov)**

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday. *There is no filing fee to file an appeal with the Employment Appeal Board.*

AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL STATE CLEARLY:

- 1) The name, address, and social security number of the claimant.
- 2) A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
- 3) That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
- 4) The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If you do not file an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at [www.iowacourts.gov/efile](http://www.iowacourts.gov/efile). *There may be a filing fee to file the petition in District Court.*

**Note to Parties:** YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds.

**Note to Claimant:** It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

**SERVICE INFORMATION:**

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

**DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN.** Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board  
4th Floor – Lucas Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
En línea: [eab.iowa.gov](http://eab.iowa.gov)**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal. *No hay tarifa de presentación para presentar una apelación ante la Junta de Apelación de Empleo.*

UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si no presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelación de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en una acción final de la agencia y tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en [www.iowacourts.gov/efile](http://www.iowacourts.gov/efile). *Puede haber una tarifa de presentación para presentar la petición en el Tribunal de Distrito.*

**Nota para las partes:** USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

**Nota para el reclamante:** es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

**SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:**

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.