IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECIONS AND APPEALS ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU

WILLIAM T WILLIAMSON

Claimant

APPEAL 23A-UI-03857-DZ-T

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DECISION

ALL IN A DAY LLC

Employer

OC: 03/05/23

Claimant: Respondent (1)

Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quit

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

William T. Williamson, the claimant/appellant,¹ filed an appeal from the Iowa Workforce Development April 5, 2023 (reference 08) unemployment insurance (UI) decision. The decision denied Mr. Williamson REGULAR (state) UI benefits because IWD concluded that he voluntarily quit working for this employer on March 29, 2022 and he did not give IWD information showing he had good cause to quit. The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) UI Appeals Bureau mailed a notice of hearing to Mr. Williamson and the employer. The undersigned administrative law judge held a telephone hearing on May 1, 2023. Mr. Williamson participated personally. Larry Leliefeld, president of Geothermal Eco Options, Mr. Williamson's current employer, testified in favor of Mr. Williamson. The employer participated through Toni Holguin, human resources staff and Sarah Kinnetz, employee relations specialist. The undersigned took official notice of the administrative record, and the record in Appeal 23A-UI-03855-DZ-T. The undersigned also admitted Employer's Exhibit 1 as evidence.

ISSUES:

Did Mr. Williamson quit by not reporting for an additional work assignment within three business days of the end of the last assignment?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the undersigned finds: Mr. Williamson began working for the employer on November 15, 2021. He worked as a full-time laborer assigned to work at Mortons. After working a specific number of hours, Mr. Williamson became eligible for hire by Mortons.

Mr. Williamson worked the specific number of hours necessary to be eligible for hire by Mortons, but he did not hear from Mortons about being hired full-time. Mr. Williamson began applying for new assignments. The employer saw Mr. Williamson doing so and contacted him to learn why he was looking for new assignments when he was on an assignment. Mr. Williamson told the employer that he was frustrated because Mortons did not hire him. The employer told Mr.

¹ Claimant is the person who filed the UI claim with IWD. Appellant is the person or employer who filed the appeal.

Williamson that it would contact Mortons to see what it could find out. The employer contacted Mortons who told the employer that they were considering the matter.

On April 18, 2022, Ms. Kinnetz texted Mr. Williamson and Mr. Williamson called Ms. Kinnetz in response. Mr. Williamson stated that he was frustrated because Mortons did not hire him. Mr. Williamson also stated that he had not worked at Mortons the previous week, April 10-16, and that he had guit because of his frustration.

The employer's policy requires employees to contact the employer within three working days after their assignment ends to request a new assignment or the person will be considered to have voluntarily quit. Mr. Williamson acknowledged receiving a copy of the policy on November 12, 2021.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes Mr. Williamson voluntarily quit working for this employer without good cause attributable to the employer.

Iowa Code section 96.5(1) provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

- 1. Voluntary quitting. If the individual has left work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the individual's employer, if so found by the department.
- j. (1) The individual is a temporary employee of a temporary employment firm who notifies the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment and who seeks reassignment. Failure of the individual to notify the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment within three working days of the completion of each employment assignment under a contract of hire shall be deemed a voluntary quit unless the individual was not advised in writing of the duty to notify the temporary employment firm upon completion of an employment assignment or the individual had good cause for not contacting the temporary employment firm within three working days and notified the firm at the first reasonable opportunity thereafter.
- (2) To show that the employee was advised in writing of the notification requirement of this paragraph, the temporary employment firm shall advise the temporary employee by requiring the temporary employee, at the time of employment with the temporary employment firm, to read and sign a document that provides a clear and concise explanation of the notification requirement and the consequences of a failure to notify. The document shall be separate from any contract of employment and a copy of the signed document shall be provided to the temporary employee.
- (3) For the purposes of this lettered paragraph:
- (a) "Temporary employee" means an individual who is employed by a temporary employment firm to provide services to clients to supplement their work force during absences, seasonal workloads, temporary skill or labor market shortages, and for special assignments and projects.

(b) "Temporary employment firm" means a person engaged in the business of employing temporary employees.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.26(15) provides:

Voluntary quit with good cause attributable to the employer and separations not considered to be voluntary quits. The following are reasons for a claimant leaving employment with good cause attributable to the employer:

Employee of temporary employment firm.

- a. The individual is a temporary employee of a temporary employment firm who notifies the temporary employment firm within three days of completion of an employment assignment and seeks reassignment under the contract of hire. The employee must be advised by the employer of the notification requirement in writing and receive a copy.
- b. The individual shall be eligible for benefits under this subrule if the individual had good cause for not contacting the employer within three days and did notify the employer at the first reasonable opportunity.
- c. Good cause is a substantial and justifiable reason, excuse or cause such that a reasonable and prudent person, who desired to remain in the ranks of the employed, would find to be adequate justification for not notifying the employer. Good cause would include the employer's going out of business; blinding snow storm; telephone lines down; employer closed for vacation; hospitalization of the claimant; and other substantial reasons.
- d. Notification may be accomplished by going to the employer's place of business, telephoning the employer, faxing the employer, or any other currently accepted means of communications. Working days means the normal days in which the employer is open for business.

The purpose of the statute is to provide notice to the temporary agency employer that the claimant is available for work at the conclusion of each temporary assignment so they may be reassigned and continue working. The plain language of the statute allows benefits for a claimant "who notifies the temporary employment firm of completion of an assignment *and* who seeks reassignment."

In this case, Mr. Williamson did notify the employer of his availability, or request another assignment after the end of his assignment. Instead, Mr. Williamson stopped going to work and told the employer at least a week later that he had stopped going to work because of his frustration at Morton not hiring him. Mr. Williamson is considered to have quit employment without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are denied.

DECISION:

The April 5, 2023 (reference 08) UI decision is AFFIRMED. Mr. Williamson's separation from employment with this employer was not attributable to the employer. Benefits are denied until Mr. Williamson has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times his weekly UI benefit amount, as long as no other decision denies his UI benefits.

Daniel Zeno

Administrative Law Judge

May 3, 2023

Decision Dated and Mailed

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APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with this 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 4th Floor – Lucas Building Des Moines, Iowa 50319 Fax: (515)281-7191 Online: 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.

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 then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

<u>2.</u> If no one files 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 <u>file a petition for judicial review in District Court</u> within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at lowa Code §17A.19, which is online at https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf or by contacting the District Court Clerk of Court https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/.

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:

<u>1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo</u> 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

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.

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.

<u>2.</u> Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de lowa §17A.19, que se encuentra en línea en https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf o comunicándose con el Tribunal de Distrito Secretario del tribunal https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/.

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.