

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

ANGINETTE M MORITZ
Claimant

USPS
Employer

APPEAL 17A-UI-04789-H2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 01/22/17
Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code §96.5(3)a – Work Refusal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the April 26, 2017, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits finding the claimant had refused a suitable offer of work. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was scheduled to be held on May 24, 2017. The employer did not opt to participate. The claimant participated via written statement. No testimony was taken.

ISSUE:

Did the claimant refuse a suitable offer of work?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Employer made an offer of work to claimant on March 22, 2017. That offer would have required that the claimant work six days per week, anywhere from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with no known indication as to when she would be starting each day or finishing each day. The claimant has three children at home. She has not worked a job that required her to work weekends or work so late into the evening. The hours of work alone make the job unsuitable for the claimant.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes claimant did not refuse a suitable offer of work.

Iowa Code § 96.5(3)a provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

3. Failure to accept work. If the department finds that an individual has failed, without good cause, either to apply for available, suitable work when directed by the department or to accept suitable work when offered that individual. The department shall, if possible, furnish the individual with the names of employers which are seeking employees. The individual shall apply to and obtain the signatures of the employers designated by the

department on forms provided by the department. However, the employers may refuse to sign the forms. The individual's failure to obtain the signatures of designated employers, which have not refused to sign the forms, shall disqualify the individual for benefits until requalified. To requalify for benefits after disqualification under this subsection, the individual shall work in and be paid wages for insured work equal to ten times the individual's weekly benefit amount, provided the individual is otherwise eligible.

a. (1) In determining whether or not any work is suitable for an individual, the department shall consider the degree of risk involved to the individual's health, safety, and morals, the individual's physical fitness, prior training, length of unemployment, and prospects for securing local work in the individual's customary occupation, the distance of the available work from the individual's residence, and any other factor which the department finds bears a reasonable relation to the purposes of this paragraph. Work is suitable if the work meets all the other criteria of this paragraph and if the gross weekly wages for the work equal or exceed the following percentages of the individual's average weekly wage for insured work paid to the individual during that quarter of the individual's base period in which the individual's wages were highest:

(a) One hundred percent, if the work is offered during the first five weeks of unemployment.

(b) Seventy-five percent, if the work is offered during the sixth through the twelfth week of unemployment.

(c) Seventy percent, if the work is offered during the thirteenth through the eighteenth week of unemployment.

(d) Sixty-five percent, if the work is offered after the eighteenth week of unemployment.

(2) However, the provisions of this paragraph shall not require an individual to accept employment below the federal minimum wage.

The offer was unsuitable, as the hours and days of work were unsuitable as the claimant has not worked weekends previously nor has she worked so late into the evening. Additionally, with no set start and finish times, the claimant would not be able to arrange daycare for her children. Under these circumstances the administrative law judge concludes the claimant did not refuse a suitable offer of work. Benefits are allowed.

DECISION:

The April 26, 2017, (reference 03), decision is reversed. Claimant did not refuse a suitable offer of work. Benefits are allowed, provided claimant is otherwise eligible.

Teresa K. Hillary
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/scn