

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

CRYSTAL S PARKIS
Claimant

PELLA CORPORATION
Employer

APPEAL 21A-UI-02025-AW-T
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 05/10/20
Claimant: Appellant (2)

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from the December 10, 2020 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on February 25, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. Claimant participated. Employer did not participate. Claimant's Exhibits A – C were admitted. Official notice was taken of the administrative record.

ISSUE:

Whether claimant was able to and available for work.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant filed an initial claim for benefits effective May 10, 2020 and reopened her claim effective September 27, 2020. On September 29, 2020, claimant's child was diagnosed with Covid-19. Claimant notified employer. Employer required claimant to quarantine for 14 days pursuant to its Covid-19 policy. Claimant was not ill and had no barriers to employment from September 29, 2020 until October 2, 2020. Claimant began experiencing Covid-19 symptoms late Friday, October 2, 2020. The symptoms were not such that they would have prevented claimant from performing her job duties. Claimant would have worked the entire week of September 28, 2020 through October 2, 2020, if employer had allowed.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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

Iowa Code section 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".

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(1), (2) provide, in pertinent part:

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.

(1) Able to work. An individual must be physically and mentally able to work in some gainful employment, not necessarily in the individual's customary occupation, but which is engaged in by others as a means of livelihood.

a. Illness, injury or pregnancy. Each case is decided upon an individual basis, recognizing that various work opportunities present different physical requirements. A statement from a medical practitioner is considered prima facie evidence of the physical ability of the individual to perform the work required. A pregnant individual must meet the same criteria for determining ableness as do all other individuals.

(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.

An individual claiming benefits has the burden of proof that she is be able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22.

Claimant's absence from work from September 29, 2020 until October 2, 2020 was mandated by employer. Claimant was not ill and had no barriers to employment. Claimant has established that she was able to and available for work. Benefits are allowed, provided claimant is otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The December 10, 2020 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. Claimant is able to and available for work. Benefits are allowed provided claimant is otherwise eligible.



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March 5, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

acw/scn