

**IN THE IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

ANGELIA M WILLIAMS
Claimant

APPEAL 23A-UI-07931-AR-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 06/11/23
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able and Available/Work Search
Iowa Code § 96.1A(37) – Total, Partial, and Temporary Unemployment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On August 16, 2023, the claimant filed an appeal from the August 11, 2023, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that advised the claimant they were no longer considered temporarily unemployed and warned the claimant they must be making a minimum of four employment contacts each week. After due notice was issued, a telephone hearing was held on September 1, 2023. Claimant, Angelia M. Williams, participated. The agency, Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), participated through Andrea Weekley. IWD Exhibits 1 through 4 were admitted. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUE:

Is the claimant required to begin making employment contacts?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant is employed with H&R Block as a tax specialist. Effective June 11, 2023, claimant opened a claim for unemployment insurance benefits due to a seasonal layoff from employment. Claimant filed a reopen claim effective July 2, 2023. Claimant was initially categorized in group code 3 for purposes of employment contacts; on August 10, 2023, claimant was categorized in group code 6, indicating she needed to begin making employment contacts. Claimant's employment is not classified in a set of trades and occupations that are exempt from making employment contacts for the duration of the claim year.

Claimant has worked at H&R Block since 2019 or 2020. She has been laid off on a seasonal basis each year, when tax season ends. This year, she has been extended a reemployment offer by H&R Block to commence November 1, 2023.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant is required to make the minimum of four employment contacts on a weekly basis.

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. (a) The individual is able to work, is available for work, and is earnestly and actively seeking work...

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the department may establish by rule a process to waive or alter the work search requirements of this subsection for a claim for benefits if an individual has a reasonable expectation that the individual will be returning to employment and is attached to a regular job or industry... To be considered attached to a regular job or industry, an individual must be on a short-term temporary layoff.

Iowa Code section 96.1A(37) provides:

"Total and partial unemployment".

...

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.

(Emphasis added.) In this case, Iowa Workforce Development has made the policy decision to exempt only some workers in certain trades or occupations from weekly employment contacts. This exemption will ensure they are available to return to employment with their regular employer whenever called to return. Claimant's trade or occupation is not included in the exemption.

Claimant has been on a seasonal layoff for longer than four weeks. Under the definition of "temporary unemployment," she can no longer be considered to be temporarily unemployed. Therefore, the administrative law judge finds the claimant was required to make employment contacts and the notice issued was appropriate.

DECISION:

The August 11, 2023, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is AFFIRMED. The claimant is required to begin making employment contacts.



Alexis D. Rowe
Administrative Law Judge

September 5, 2023
Decision Dated and Mailed

ar/rvs

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
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.

2. 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 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 Iowa 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:

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**

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.

2. 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 adquiriera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §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.