

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

JOSH S REYNOLDS

Claimant

APPEAL NO. 14A-UI-12196-B2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

SIEFERS CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS INC

Employer

OC: 04/13/14

Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.5-3-a – Work Refusal
Iowa Code § 96.4-3 – Able and Available

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated November 18, 2014, reference 03, which held claimant ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits due to a refusal to accept work. After due notice, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled for and held on December 16, 2014. Claimant participated personally. Employer participated by Jamie Siefers.

ISSUES:

The issue in this matter is whether claimant refused to accept a suitable offer of work.

Whether claimant is able and available for work.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Employer made an offer of work to the claimant on October 3, 2014. That offer included the following terms: Claimant would drive a dump truck for employer. The offer was made in the second week of unemployment. Claimant was to be paid at the same rate by the same employer who had previously employed claimant before the short term layoff. Claimant refused the offer of work because he no longer had a valid commercial driver's license.

Claimant did not have a valid commercial driver's license at the time of hire by employer. Claimant stated that he did not accept the offer to go back to work because his lack of a license could put employer at risk.

Claimant has not completed steps to date that would make him able and available for work.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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. 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:

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

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

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

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

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

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.24(1)a provides:

(1) Bona fide offer of work.

a. In deciding whether or not a claimant failed to accept suitable work, or failed to apply for suitable work, it must first be established that a bona fide offer of work was made to the individual by personal contact or that a referral was offered to the claimant by

personal contact to an actual job opening and a definite refusal was made by the individual. For purposes of a recall to work, a registered letter shall be deemed to be sufficient as a personal contact.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.24(8) provides:

(8) Refusal disqualification jurisdiction. Both the offer of work or the order to apply for work and the claimant's accompanying refusal must occur within the individual's benefit year, as defined in subrule 24.1(21), before the Iowa code subsection 96.5(3) disqualification can be imposed. It is not necessary that the offer, the order, or the refusal occur in a week in which the claimant filed a weekly claim for benefits before the disqualification can be imposed.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated November 18, 2014, reference 03 is affirmed. Claimant is ineligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

Blair A. Bennett
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

bab/pjs