

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

**DANIEL E PORTZ**  
Claimant

**STREB CONSTRUCTION CO INC**  
Employer

**APPEAL NO. 18A-UI-09285-B2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 08/05/18**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.5-1 – Voluntary Quit

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated August 30, 2018, reference 01, which held claimant ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After due notice, a hearing was scheduled for and held on September 25, 2018. Claimant participated and had witness Bob Lake. Employer participated by Annie Maple.

**ISSUE:**

The issue in this matter is whether claimant quit for good cause attributable to employer.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant last worked for employer on July 30, 2018. Claimant voluntarily quit on August 1, 2018. Claimant stated that shortly after being hired by employer on July 16, 2018, he injured his shoulder at home. Claimant stated that he went to a doctor who told him that if he were to continue working in an area where he used his shoulder at this company, he would eventually need to have his shoulder replaced.

Claimant then chose to quit his job and called his manager to tell him of his quit.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code § 96.5-1 provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits, regardless of the source of the individual's wage credits:

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.

The administrative law judge holds that the evidence has failed to establish that claimant voluntarily quit for good cause attributable to employer when claimant terminated the employment relationship because his shoulder was injured from a fall outside of work.

Ordinarily “good cause” is derived from the facts of each case keeping in mind the public policy stated in Iowa Code Section 96.2. *O’Brien v. EAB* 494 N.W.2d 660, 662 (Iowa 1993) (citing *Wiese v. IA Dept. of Job Serv.*, 389 N.W.2d 676, 680 (Iowa 1986)). “The term encompasses real circumstances, adequate excuses that will bear the test of reason, just grounds for the action, and always the test of good faith.” *Wiese v. IA Dept. of Job Serv.*, 389 N.W.2d 676, 680 (Iowa 1986). “Common sense and prudence must be exercised in evaluating all of the circumstances that led to an employee’s quit in order to attribute the cause for the termination.” *Id.* Whether or not claimant in this matter had “good cause” to quit his employment in this matter is not dispositive as claimant’s reason for his quit was attributable to his fall and to the condition of his shoulder; not to his employer. As such, claimant’s quit will disqualify him from the receipt of unemployment benefits.

**DECISION:**

The decision of the representative dated August 30, 2018, reference 01, is affirmed. Unemployment insurance benefits shall be withheld until claimant has worked in and been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times claimant’s weekly benefit amount, provided claimant is otherwise eligible.

---

Blair A. Bennett  
Administrative Law Judge

---

Decision Dated and Mailed

bab/scn