

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

GREGG L PICKERING
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 11A-UI-16452-MT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

PELLA CORPORATION
Employer

**OC: 11/27/11
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.5-1 – Voluntary Quit

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated December 22, 2011, reference 01, which held claimant ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After due notice, a hearing was scheduled for and held on January 26, 2012. Claimant participated. Employer failed to respond to the hearing notice and did not participate. Exhibit A was admitted into evidence.

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 having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant last worked for employer on November 30, 2011. Claimant quit because he wanted to go back to school. Claimant was offered a two-month severance package if he voluntarily resigned. In claimant's unit, 95 layoffs were expected. Claimant did not know if he would face layoff. Claimant was not told that if he failed to take the severance package, he would be laid off. Claimant started school in 2012.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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 he wanted to go back to school. Claimant was enticed into quitting for a two-month severance package. Continued work was available. It was not certain that claimant was going to be laid off if he stayed. This is a quit for personal reasons. Quitting for school is not good cause attributable to employer. Benefits withheld.

Iowa Code section 96.5-1 provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

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.

871 IAC 24.25(26) provides:

Voluntary quit without good cause. In general, a voluntary quit means discontinuing the employment because the employee no longer desires to remain in the relationship of an employee with the employer from whom the employee has separated. The employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.5. However, the claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving Iowa Code section 96.5, subsection (1), paragraphs "a" through "i," and subsection 10. The following reasons for a voluntary quit shall be presumed to be without good cause attributable to the employer:

(26) The claimant left to go to school.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated December 22, 2011, 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.

Marlon Mormann
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

mdm/kjw