

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

CORBIN R OHRT
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 17A-UI-00558-DG-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 01/01/17
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1) & (2) – Backdating

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated January 11, 2017, reference 01, which denied claimant's request to backdate a claim. After due notice, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled for and held on February 8, 2017. Claimant participated personally.

ISSUE:

Can the claimant backdate the claim prior to January 1, 2017?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant filed a claim for benefits with an effective date of January 1, 2017, and desires to backdate the claim to December 25, 2017. Claimant delayed filing the claim because he lives in a small remote town. He does not have a computer or an electronic device. The nearest workforce development office is over 40 miles away and he does not have a driver's license. He was laid off for one week by his employer during Christmas. He still works for the employer, and the employer had to help him file his claim using a work computer.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request to backdate his claim is allowed.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1) and (2) provide:

Procedures for workers desiring to file a claim for benefits for unemployment insurance.

(1) Section 96.6 of the employment security law of Iowa states that claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such rules as the department prescribes. The department of workforce development accordingly prescribes:

h. Effective starting date for the benefit year.

(1) Filing for benefits shall be effective as of Sunday of the current calendar week in which, subsequent to the individual's separation from work, an individual reports in person at a workforce development center and registers for work in accordance with paragraph "a" of this rule.

(2) The claim may be backdated prior to the first day of the calendar week in which the claimant does report and file a claim for the following reasons:

Backdated prior to the week in which the individual reported if the individual presents to the department sufficient grounds to justify or excuse the delay;

There is scheduled filing in the following week because of a mass layoff;

The failure of the department to recognize the expiration of the claimant's previous benefit year;

The individual is given incorrect advice by a workforce development employee;

The claimant filed an interstate claim against another state which has been determined as ineligible;

Failure on the part of the employer to comply with the provisions of the law or of these rules;

Coercion or intimidation exercised by the employer to prevent the prompt filing of such claim;

Failure of the department to discharge its responsibilities promptly in connection with such claim, the department shall extend the period during which such claim may be filed to a date which shall be not less than one week after the individual has received appropriate notice of potential rights to benefits, provided, that no such claim may be filed after the 13 weeks subsequent to the end of the benefit year during which the week of unemployment occurred. In the event continuous jurisdiction is exercised under the provisions of the law, the department may, in its discretion, extend the period during which claims, with respect to week of unemployment affected by such redetermination, may be filed.

The IWD Claimant Handbook at page four indicates a claim effective date is the Sunday of the week in which the application was filed. There is no instruction that a new, additional or reopened claim must be filed before Saturday of the week of separation or unemployment. Since claimant attempted to file his claim but was unable to because he was not able to access a workforce development office, and there is not a public library in his home town. Not every person has a computer or electronic device that can be used to file a claim. It is not reasonable to penalize a claimant who attempted to file, but was unable to because of his physical location. Backdating is allowed.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated January 11, 2017, reference 01, is reversed. Claimant's request to backdate the claim is granted.

Duane L. Golden
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dlg/rvs