

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

DENNIS L FRIEDERICH
Claimant

APPEAL 17A-UI-03733-DL-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 12/25/16
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(1) – Filing Claims
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1) & (2) – Backdating

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed a timely appeal from the March 22, 2017, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that denied the request to backdate the claim for benefits prior to March 12, 2017. After due notice was issued, a hearing was scheduled to be held by telephone conference call on April 27, 2017. No hearing was held as there was sufficient evidence in the appeal letter and administrative record to resolve the matter without testimony.

ISSUE:

Should the claim be backdated prior to March 12, 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 December 25, 2016, and an additional claim effective March 12, 2017, and wishes to backdate the claim to February 19, 2017, because he reported to the Mason City Iowa Works office on Friday of that week at 4:20 p.m. for assistance with filing his claim and was turned away because the office closes at 4:30 p.m. He went another day at 4:05 p.m. and was turned away again. Claimant lives in Charles City and the closest local office is in Mason City. He does not have or know how to use a computer and the IWD customer service center would not help him file a claim by telephone. He earned gross wages of \$331.20 for the week-ending February 25, 2017.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request to backdate the claim is granted.

Iowa Code section 96.6(1) provides:

Filing — determination — appeal.

1. *Filing.* Claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such regulations as the department may prescribe.

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.

Claimant has presented good cause to backdate the claim to February 25, 2017, because he was unable to obtain assistance in-person at Mason City Iowa Works or from IWD customer service by telephone during the same week. Lack of reasonable assistance from an IWD representative during regular business hours is considered a good cause reason for having failed to file a claim during the first week of unemployment.

DECISION:

The March 22, 2017, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant's request to backdate the claim to February 19, 2017, is granted, as are the retroactive benefits for the same time period.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/rvs