

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

DAVID D CHILES
Claimant

APPEAL 17A-UI-05171-DL-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 02/05/17
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) - Able and Available
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e – Notice to Report
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(11) – Failure to Report

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the May 8, 2017, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits because of not being able to or available for work. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was set for May 31, 2017. Claimant participated.

ISSUES:

Did the claimant fail to report as directed or offer a good cause reason for failure to do so?
Is the claimant able to work and available for work the week-ending April 22, 2017?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having examined the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: A notice was mailed to the claimant to be available for a call from IWD on Thursday, April 27 about his availability for work the week ending April 22, 2017. He was not able to take the call because he was out of town. He attempted to call twice on Monday, May 1, but could not reach the workforce advisor and received no return call. The claimant filed a weekly continued claim and made a keystroke error indicating he was not available for work. He was available for work that week.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the underlying issue was the result of a reporting error, and the claimant has established a good cause reason for having failed to report as directed.

Iowa Code section 96.4(3) provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

3. The individual is able to work, is available for work, and is earnestly and actively seeking work. This subsection is waived if the individual is deemed partially unemployed, while employed at the individual's regular job, as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "b", unnumbered paragraph (1), or temporarily unemployed as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "c". The work search requirements of this subsection and the disqualification requirement for failure to apply for, or to accept

suitable work of section 96.5, subsection 3 are waived if the individual is not disqualified for benefits under section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraph "h".

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e provides:

e. In order to maintain continuing eligibility for benefits during any continuous period of unemployment, an individual shall report as directed to do so by an authorized representative of the department. If the individual has moved to another locality, the individual may register and report in person at a workforce development center at the time previously specified for the reporting.

The method of reporting shall be weekly if a voice response continued claim is filed, unless otherwise directed by an authorized representative of the department.¹ An individual who files a voice response continued claim will have the benefit payment automatically deposited weekly in the individual's account at a financial institution or be paid by the mailing of a warrant on a biweekly basis.

...
The department retains the ultimate authority to choose the method of reporting and payment.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(11) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

(11) Failure to report as directed to workforce development in response to the notice which was mailed to the claimant will result in the claimant being deemed not to meet the availability requirements.

Since he was unable to take the reporting call and called back within two business days but was unable to reach the workforce advisor, claimant has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed, and because the weekly claim entry indicating he was not available for work was made in error, benefits are allowed.

DECISION:

The May 8, 2017, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant has established a good cause reason for failing to report as directed. The underlying issue was the result of a reporting error. Benefits are allowed for the week-ending April 22, 2017, and effective April 30, 2017, provided he is otherwise eligible.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/rvs

¹ As of October 1, 2016, the agency requires all continued weekly claims to be filed online.