

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS SECTION
1000 EAST GRAND—DES MOINES, IOWA 50319
DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
68-0157 (7-97) – 3091078 - EI

BARBARA J GEPNER
504 N HAYES
MT AYR IA 50840

IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

VICKI RAMIREZ
UISC
150 DES MOINES ST
DES MOINES IA 50309

Appeal Number: 04A-UI-01873-SWT
OC 02/01/04 R 03
Claimant: Appellant (1)

This Decision Shall Become Final, unless within fifteen (15) days from the date below, you or any interested party appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by submitting either a signed letter or a signed written Notice of Appeal, directly to the **Employment Appeal Board, 4th Floor—Lucas Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.**

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday.

STATE CLEARLY

1. The name, address and social security number of the claimant.
2. A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
3. That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
4. The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in this appeal or you may obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds. It is important that you file your claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

(Administrative Law Judge)

(Decision Dated & Mailed)

871 IAC 25.16 - Income Tax Offset

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated February 19, 2004, reference 02, that notified the claimant that Iowa Workforce Development was requesting withholding of her Iowa income tax refund to apply to an outstanding overpayment of unemployment insurance benefits. A telephone hearing was held on March 11, 2004. The claimant participated in the hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The claimant has an outstanding overpayment of unemployment insurance benefits totaling \$1,859.00. The claimant has not made any attempt to repay the overpayment of benefits within the last six months.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue in this case is whether the Agency has the authority to recoup the overpayment of unemployment insurance benefits through offset against the claimant's Iowa income tax refund.

871 IAC 25.16 provides:

State payment offset. An individual who is owed a payment from the state of at least \$50 and owes an overpayment of benefits of at least \$50 is subject to an offset against the individual's payment from the state to recover all or a part of the individual's overpayment of benefits and to reimburse the department of revenue and finance for administrative costs to execute the offset. All overpayments, whether fraud or nonfraud, are included in this process.

(1) If the individual has made no attempt to repay the overpayment of benefits within the preceding six months, the individual's name and social security number are given to the department of revenue and finance.

(2) The department of revenue and finance notifies the department that an overpaid individual is owed a payment from the state. The department then notifies the overpaid individual of the potential offset against the individual's payment from the state.

(3) In the case of a joint or combined income tax filing, the individual has ten days from the postmark date on the decision to request a split of the refund to ensure the other party's portion of the refund is not offset. When a request is made, the department notifies the department of revenue and finance to make the split. The department then notifies the overpaid individual of the amount of the offset. If the request for split of the refund is not made timely, the entire income tax refund becomes subject to offset.

(4) Any appeal by the individual is limited to the validity of job service's authority to recoup the overpayment through offset.

(5) In the event that the amount of the offset exceeds the remaining overpayment, the department shall issue to the individual a special check equal to the amount of the excess.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 96.11 and 421.17(26,29).

Based on this rule and the statute cited, the Agency has the authority to recoup the overpayment of benefits by offset against the claimant's Iowa state income tax refund. The outstanding overpayment is more than \$50.00, and no effort has been made to repay the overpayment within the last six months. The claimant should be contacted by the Agency to arrange for a repayment plan that will avoid future offsets.

DECISION:

The unemployment insurance decision dated February 19, 2004, reference 02, is affirmed. The Agency has the authority to recoup the overpayment of benefits by offset against the claimant's Iowa state income tax refund.

saw/b