

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

MARY E KIGGINS
422 – 4TH AVE S
CLINTON IA 52732

WAL-MART STORES INC
C/O FRICK UC EXPRESS
P O BOX 283
ST LOUIS MO 63166-0283

Appeal Number: 04A-UI-02450-H2T
OC 01-18-04 R 04
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)

Section 96.5-1-d – Voluntary Leaving/Illness or Injury
871 IAC 24.25(35) – Separation Due to Illness or Injury

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the February 25, 2004, reference 02, decision that denied benefits. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held on March 25, 2004. The claimant did participate. The employer did participate through Tom Meyer, Store Manager.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant was employed as a stocker full time beginning May 13, 2000 through December 5, 2003 when she was temporarily separated from her employment due to a non-work-related

injury. The claimant currently has work restrictions that prevent her from lifting over 30 pounds or from bending or twisting at the waist.

The claimant was injured in a non-work-related incident and was unable to work pursuant to medical advice from a treating physician. She has not yet received a full medical release from the treating physician.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant is temporarily separated from her employment without good cause attributable to the employer.

Iowa Code Section 96.5-1-d 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. But the individual shall not be disqualified if the department finds that:

d. The individual left employment because of illness, injury or pregnancy upon the advice of a licensed and practicing physician, and upon knowledge of the necessity for absence immediately notified the employer, or the employer consented to the absence, and after recovering from the illness, injury or pregnancy, when recovery was certified by a licensed and practicing physician, the individual returned to the employer and offered to perform services and the individual's regular work or comparable suitable work was not available, if so found by the department, provided the individual is otherwise eligible.

871 IAC 24.25(35) provides:

(35) The claimant left because of illness or injury which was not caused or aggravated by the employment or pregnancy and failed to:

- (a) Obtain the advice of a licensed and practicing physician;
- (b) Obtain certification of release for work from a licensed and practicing physician;
- (c) Return to the employer and offer services upon recovery and certification for work by a licensed and practicing physician; or
- (d) Fully recover so that the claimant could perform all of the duties of the job.

The claimant has not been released to return to full work duties. Accordingly, the separation is without good cause attributable to the employer and benefits must be denied.

DECISION:

The February 25, 2004, reference 02, decision is affirmed. The claimant's separation was without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are withheld until such time as the claimant works in and has been paid wages equal to ten times her weekly benefit amount,

provided she is otherwise eligible or until such time as the claimant obtains a full release without restriction to return to regular duties, offers services to the employer, and the employer has no comparable, suitable work available.

tkh/b