

**IN THE IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

SERGIO RODRIGUEZ RAMIREZ
Claimant

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

APPEAL 24A-UI-03607-AR-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**OC: 03/03/24
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Eligibility – Able to, available for, work search
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e – Eligibility – A&A – Failure to report
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(11) – Eligibility – A&A – Failure to report

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On April 5, 2024, the claimant filed an appeal from the March 28, 2024, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits effective March 24, 2024, based on the determination that claimant failed to report as directed by a department representative. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on April 26, 2024. Claimant, Sergio Rodriguez Ramirez, participated. The agency, Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), did not participate. Spanish language interpretation services were provided by Valentina, #14890, with CTS Language Link. No exhibits were offered or admitted. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Is claimant able to and available for work?
Did claimant fail to report as directed by a department representative?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of March 3, 2024. IWD mailed claimant a notice to report for a reemployment case management appointment scheduled for March 25, 2024. Claimant does not know whether he received the notice and did not participate in any appointment focused solely on his work searches. The only time he spoke with IWD about his eligibility for benefits was to address IWD's request for additional identity verification documentation. Claimant struggles with letters from IWD because they are in English.

Claimant has been able to and available for work. There are no barriers to his reemployment since March 24, 2024. Claimant's weekly claims do not reflect work searches. He says he has

been making work searches but does not know how to operate the computer to report them to IWD. However, claimant has not filed a weekly continuing claim for benefits since the week ending March 16, 2024.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that claimant has established a good-case 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 department retains the ultimate authority to choose the method of reporting and payment.

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

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.

It is not clear that claimant received the notice to report to IWD, and if he did, he did not understand the notice due to a language barrier. Accordingly, he has established a good-cause reason for failing to report as directed. Claimant has also established that there are no barriers to his reemployment. Benefits are allowed, provided claimant is otherwise eligible.

Claimant is obligated to follow up on notices received from IWD, and he should be aware of that obligation in the future.

DECISION:

The March 28, 2024, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision is REVERSED. The claimant has established a good-cause reason for failing to report as directed. Claimant is able to and available for work effective March 24, 2024. Benefits are allowed, provided claimant is otherwise eligible.



Alexis D. Rowe
Administrative Law Judge

April 29, 2024
Decision Dated and Mailed

AR/jkb

APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Iowa Employment Appeal Board
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Fax: (515)281-7191
Online: eab.iowa.gov**

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.

AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL 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.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> or by contacting the District Court Clerk of Court <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Note to Parties: YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or 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.

Note to Claimant: It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

SERVICE INFORMATION:

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN. Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Iowa Employment Appeal Board
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Fax: (515)281-7191
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal.

UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiriera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que se encuentra en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> o comunicándose con el Tribunal de Distrito Secretario del tribunal <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Nota para las partes: USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

Nota para el reclamante: es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.