

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

CRYSTAL M PLUNKETT
Claimant

APPEAL 24A-UI-05053-DZ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 02/25/24
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Crystal M. Plunkett, the claimant/appellant,¹ appealed the Iowa Workforce Development May 21, 2024 (reference 08) unemployment insurance (UI) decision. IWD concluded that IWD overpaid Ms. Plunkett \$440.00 in REGULAR (state) UI benefits for the week of April 14, 2024 through April 20, 2024 because the May 13, 2024 (reference 06) UI decision denied her UI benefits for this week. On May 29, 2024, the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing (DIAL), UI Appeals Bureau mailed a notice of hearing to Ms. Plunkett and IWD for a telephone hearing scheduled for June 12, 2024.

The administrative law judge held a telephone hearing on June 12, 2024. The administrative law judge heard Appeals 24A-UI-05051-DZ-T, 24A-UI-05052-DZ-T, and 24A-UI-05053-DZ-T together and created one hearing record. Ms. Plunkett participated in the hearing personally. IWD did not participate in the hearing. The administrative law judge admitted Department's Exhibit 3 and 4, and Claimant's Exhibit A as evidence.

The administrative law judge concludes IWD did not overpay Ms. Plunkett UI benefits for the week of April 14-20, 2024.

ISSUE:

Did IWD overpay Ms. Plunkett \$440.00 in REGULAR (state) UI benefits the week of April 14, 2024 through April 20, 2024?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Ms. Plunkett applied for REGULAR (state) UI benefits effective February 25, 2024. IWD set her weekly UI benefit amount at \$440.00 before taxes, if any, are withheld. In relevant part, Ms. Plunkett filed a weekly UI claim for the week of April 14-20, 2024 and reported \$0.00 in wages this week. IWD paid Ms. Plunkett \$440.00 in REGULAR (state) UI benefits for this week.

¹ Claimant is the person who applied for UI benefits. Appellant is the person or employer who appealed.

After IWD had already sent her the money, IWD mailed Ms. Plunkett a May 13, 2024 (reference 06) UI decision denying her REGULAR (state) UI benefits for the week of April 14, 2024 through April 20, 2024. Ms. Plunkett appealed this decision. The Administrative Law Judge Decision in Appeal 24A-05051-UI-DZ-T reversed the reference 06 UI decision. This means Ms. Plunkett is eligible for REGULAR (state) UI benefits for this week.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes IWD did not overpay Ms. Plunkett REGULAR (state) UI for the week of April 14-20, 2024.

Iowa Code §96.3(7) provides, in pertinent part:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits.

a. If an individual receives benefits for which the individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible, even though the individual acts in good faith and is not otherwise at fault, the benefits shall be recovered. The department in its discretion may recover the overpayment of benefits either by having a sum equal to the overpayment deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual or by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to the overpayment.

b. (1) (a) If the department determines that an overpayment has been made, the charge for the overpayment against the employer's account shall be removed and the account shall be credited with an amount equal to the overpayment from the unemployment compensation trust fund and this credit shall include both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

IWD sent Ms. Plunkett \$440.00 in REGULAR (state) UI benefits for the week of April 14, 2024 through April 20, 2024. After IWD had already sent her the money, IWD found Ms. Plunkett not eligible to receive UI benefits based for this week. Ms. Plunkett appealed this decision. The Administrative Law Judge Decision in Appeal 24A-UI-05051-DZ-T reversed the decision denying Ms. Plunkett UI benefits for this week. Since Ms. Plunkett is eligible for UI benefits for the week of April 14-20, 2024, she is eligible for the UI benefits IWD already sent her. IWD did not overpay Ms. Plunkett REGULAR (state) UI for the week of April 14-20, 2024.

DECISION:

The May 21, 2024 (reference 08) UI decision is REVERSED. IWD did not overpay Ms. Plunkett REGULAR (state) UI for the week of April 14-20, 2024. Ms. Plunkett is not required to repay IWD the \$440.00 of UI benefits she already received.



Daniel Zeno
Administrative Law Judge

June 14, 2024
Decision Dated and Mailed

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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 adquiera 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.