

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

JULIE A GINTHER
6510 MINDEN LN NE
CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52402

UNITED NATURAL FOODS INC
BLOOMING PRAIRIE WAREHOUSE
2340 HEINZ RD
IOWA CITY IA 52240

Appeal Number: 04A-UI-03695-S2T
OC: 11/23/03 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)

Section 96.5-1-d - Voluntary Quit for Medical Reasons

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Julie Ginther (claimant) appealed a representative's March 22, 2004 decision (reference 02) that concluded she was not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits because she had voluntarily quit employment with United Natural Foods (employer). After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on April 26, 2004. The claimant participated personally. The employer did not provide a telephone number where it could be reached and, therefore, did not participate.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant was hired on February 3, 2004, as a full-time inventory control assistant. The claimant was required to stand and walk to complete her duties.

On February 23, 2004, the claimant heard crunching noises in her right foot and went to the emergency room. The claimant suffered a sprain, which was not caused by her employment. The claimant provided the employer with a physician's statement, which indicated that the claimant could not perform her work duties. The claimant notified the employer of her condition and the employer agreed to her absence from work through March 3, 2004. The claimant was unable to return to work without restriction on March 3, 2004, and gave the employer her resignation.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue is whether the claimant voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer. For the following reasons the administrative law judge concludes she did.

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.

A voluntary leaving of employment requires an intention to terminate the employment relationship accompanied by an overt act of carrying out that intention. Local Lodge #1426 v. Wilson Trailer, 289 N.W.2d 608, 612 (Iowa 1980). A claimant is not disqualified for leaving employment if he or she (1) left employment by reason of illness, injury or pregnancy; (2) on the advice of a licensed and practicing physician; (3) and immediately notified the employer or the employer consented to the absence; (4) and when certified as recovered by a physician, the individual returned to the employer and offered services but the regular or comparable suitable work was not available. Area Residential Care, Inc. v. Iowa Department of Job Service, 323 N.W.2d 257 (Iowa 1982).

The claimant left work due to an injury under the advice of her physician. The employer consented to her leaving. The claimant quit work before providing the employer with certification that she has recovered or offering her services to the employer. The claimant has failed to meet the requirements of the statute and, therefore, is not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

DECISION:

The representative's March 22, 2004 decision (reference 02) is affirmed. The claimant voluntarily left work without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are withheld until she has worked in and has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times her weekly benefit amount provided she is otherwise eligible.

bas/kjf