

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

**ABEL E SANCHEZ**

Claimant

**IOWA WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**APPEAL 24A-UI-00937-AR-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 12/17/23**

**Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

On January 23, 2024, the claimant filed an appeal from the January 19, 2024, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits effective December 17, 2023, based on a determination that claimant failed to provide proof of citizenship or authorization to work in the United States. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on February 26, 2024. Claimant, Abel E. Sanchez, participated. The agency, Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), did not participate. Spanish language translation services were provided by Ulises, #17269, of CTS Language Link. No exhibits were offered or admitted. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

**ISSUES:**

Is the claimant able to and available for work?

Did the claimant timely provide proof he was a citizen or legally authorized to work?

Did the 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 an original claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of December 17, 2023. He was not informed at this time that he needed to provide additional documentation of his authorization to work in the United States.

Claimant received a letter from Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) sometime in January that stated he must provide documentation verifying his citizenship or authorization to work in the United States. The only letter that claimant received that made this request was the decision, reference 01, that claimant ultimately appealed. Upon receiving the decision, he went to the local office and submitted his proof of authorization to work in the United States as well as an appeal of the decision. He submitted all of the documentation on January 23, 2024.

## REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes:

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...

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871—24.3 provides:

A claim will not become valid until the identity of the claimant has been verified by the department.

(1) Upon the filing of a claim, notification shall be provided to the claimant if the claimant's identity was not verified.

(2) If the agency is unable to verify the claimant's identity in the claim application, the claimant must provide approved documents. Approved documents must include at least one document containing a social security number. The department shall determine the approved documents required to verify identity. The list of approved documents can be found at the nearest local workforce center or online.

(3) The claimant's identity will not be considered verified until approved documents have been provided. The claim shall remain locked from issuance of benefits until the claimant has provided the approved documents to verify identity.

(4) After filing a claim application, the claimant shall not be eligible for benefits for any week until approved documents are provided to verify identity.

(5) Approved documents must be provided or postmarked by Saturday at 11:59 p.m. of the week in which the approved documentation is due, and the claim shall be unlocked for all weeks following the most recent effective date of the claim application.

(6) If required documents are provided in any subsequent weeks following the due date, the claimant shall be eligible, provided there are no other outstanding issues with the claim, as of the Sunday of the week the claimant's identity was verified.

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

Availability disqualifications. 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.

Here, the first letter claimant received that informed him of his obligation to provide proof of his authorization to work in the United States was the decision that denied him benefits effective December 17, 2023, for failure to do so. As soon as he received the decision denying him

benefits, he promptly took his documentation to the local office and filed an appeal. The documentation provided to IWD was sufficient.

Claimant timely responded to the first notice he received that he was required to provide additional documentation. Claimant is able to and available for work. Benefits are allowed, effective December 17, 2023, provided claimant is otherwise eligible.

**DECISION:**

The January 19, 2024, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is REVERSED. Claimant provided verification documentation in a timely manner upon information that he needed to do so. Benefits are allowed effective December 17, 2023, provided claimant meets all other eligibility requirements.



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Alexis D. Rowe  
Administrative Law Judge

February 29, 2024  
Decision Dated and Mailed

ar/scn

**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](http://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](http://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.