

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

**SARAH CLAYPOOL**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO: 10A-UI-02252-BT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**PILOT TRAVEL CENTERS LLC**  
Employer

**OC: 01/10/10**  
**Claimant: Respondent (2/R)**

Iowa Code § 96.5-1 - Voluntary Quit  
Iowa Code § 96.3-7 - Overpayment

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Pilot Travel Centers, LLC (employer) appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated February 1, 2010, reference 01, which held that Sarah Claypool (claimant) was eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on March 30, 2010. The claimant did not comply with the hearing notice instructions and did not call in to provide a telephone number at which she could be contacted, and therefore, did not participate. The employer participated through Kathryn Saathoff, General Manager. Employer's Exhibit One was admitted into evidence. Based on the evidence, the arguments of the party, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

**ISSUE:**

The issue is whether the claimant's voluntary separation from employment qualifies her to receive unemployment insurance benefits?

**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 as a full-time team member in March 2009. She was promoted to a coffee hostess and worked until she submitted her written resignation on January 5, 2010. The claimant quit her employment due to personal reasons since she had recently gained custody of her child. After submitting her resignation, the claimant called off work on January 5, 6, and 7, 2010. She was subsequently late on January 8, 9, and 10, 2010. The employer had difficulty trying to replace her when she failed to show or was late for her shifts so did not put her on the schedule for the last five days.

The claimant filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits effective January 10, 2010 and has received benefits after the separation from employment.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The issue is whether the claimant's voluntary separation from employment qualifies her to receive unemployment insurance benefits. She is not qualified to receive unemployment

insurance benefits if she voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer. Iowa Code § 96.5-1.

In general, a voluntary quit requires evidence of an intention to sever the employment relationship and an overt act carrying out that intention. Local Lodge #1426 v. Wilson Trailer, 289 N.W.2d 608, 612 (Iowa 1980) and Peck v. Employment Appeal Bd., 492 N.W.2d 438 (Iowa Ct. App. 1992). The claimant demonstrated her intent to quit and acted to carry it out by submitting her written resignation on January 5, 2010. She told the employer she was quitting because she was getting custody of her child.

It is the claimant's burden to prove that the voluntary quit was for a good cause that would not disqualify her. Iowa Code § 96.6-2. She has not satisfied that burden and benefits are denied.

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) provides that benefits must be recovered from a claimant who receives benefits and is later determined to be ineligible for benefits, even though the claimant acted in good faith and was not otherwise at fault. The overpayment recovery law was updated in 2008. See Iowa Code § 96.3(7)(b). Under the revised law, a claimant will not be required to repay an overpayment of benefits if all of the following factors are met. First, the prior award of benefits must have been made in connection with a decision regarding the claimant's separation from a particular employment. Second, the claimant must not have engaged in fraud or willful misrepresentation to obtain the benefits or in connection with the Agency's initial decision to award benefits. Third, the employer must not have participated at the initial fact-finding proceeding that resulted in the initial decision to award benefits. If Workforce Development determines there has been an overpayment of benefits, the employer will not be charged for the benefits, regardless of whether the claimant is required to repay the benefits.

Because the claimant has been deemed ineligible for benefits, any benefits the claimant has received could constitute an overpayment. Accordingly, the administrative law judge will remand the matter to the Claims Division for determination of whether there has been an overpayment, the amount of the overpayment, and whether the claimant will have to repay the benefits.

**DECISION:**

The unemployment insurance decision dated February 1, 2010, reference 01, is reversed. 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. The matter is remanded to the Claims Section for investigation and determination of the overpayment issue.

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Susan D. Ackerman  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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