

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

JIM J HEIN
Claimant

DEERE & COMPANY
Employer

APPEAL 21A-UI-17930-DB-T
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 08/04/19
Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able to and Available for Work
Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal
Iowa Code §96.19(38) – Total, Partial, Temporary Unemployment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant/appellant filed an appeal from the September 1, 2020 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that found claimant was not eligible for unemployment benefits due to him being employed at the same hours and wages as his original contract of hire. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on October 8, 2021. The claimant participated personally. The employer did not participate. The administrative law judge took administrative notice of the claimant's unemployment insurance benefits records. The hearing was consolidated with Appeal No. 21A-UI-17931-DB-T and 21A-UI-17932-DB-T.

ISSUES:

Is the appeal timely?
Is the claimant eligible for total or partial unemployment benefits?
Is the claimant able to and available for work?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: A decision dated September 1, 2020 (reference 01) that found the claimant was not eligible for benefits was mailed to the claimant's address of record. Claimant never received the decision in the mail. Claimant filed an appeal on August 14, 2021 after receiving other decisions that had found he was overpaid benefits.

Claimant began working for this employer as a full-time machinist on February 28, 2011. He is still employed to date. During the week beginning May 10, 2020, the claimant was laid off due to lack of production at work. He was laid off for a partial week during the week beginning May 10, 2020 and the full week of May 17, 2020 through May 23, 2020. He reported his wages earned during the week of May 10, 2020 through May 16, 2020 and he did not earn wages the week of May 17, 2020 through May 23, 2020. He was able to and available for work if production would not have been shut down.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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

The first issue is whether the claimant's appeal shall be considered timely. The administrative law judge finds that it shall.

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) provides:

2. Initial determination. A representative designated by the director shall promptly notify all interested parties to the claim of its filing, and the parties have ten days from the date of mailing the notice of the filing of the claim by ordinary mail to the last known address to protest payment of benefits to the claimant. The representative shall promptly examine the claim and any protest, take the initiative to ascertain relevant information concerning the claim, and, on the basis of the facts found by the representative, shall determine whether or not the claim is valid, the week with respect to which benefits shall commence, the weekly benefit amount payable and its maximum duration, and whether any disqualification shall be imposed. The claimant has the burden of proving that the claimant meets the basic eligibility conditions of § 96.4. The employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to § 96.5, except as provided by this subsection. The claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence showing that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving § 96.5, subsection 10, and has the burden of proving that a voluntary quit pursuant to § 96.5, subsection 1, was for good cause attributable to the employer and that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving § 96.5, subsection 1, paragraphs "a" through "h". Unless the claimant or other interested party, after notification or within ten calendar days after notification was mailed to the claimant's last known address, files an appeal from the decision, the decision is final and benefits shall be paid or denied in accordance with the decision. If an administrative law judge affirms a decision of the representative, or the appeal board affirms a decision of the administrative law judge allowing benefits, the benefits shall be paid regardless of any appeal which is thereafter taken, but if the decision is finally reversed, no employer's account shall be charged with benefits so paid and this relief from charges shall apply to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding § 96.8, subsection 5.

The ten calendar days for appeal begins running on the mailing date. The "decision date" found in the upper right-hand portion of the representative's decision, unless otherwise corrected immediately below that entry, is presumptive evidence of the date of mailing. *Gaskins v. Unempl. Comp. Bd. of Rev.*, 429 A.2d 138 (Pa. Comm. 1981); *Johnson v. Bd. of Adjustment*, 239 N.W.2d 873, 92 A.L.R.3d 304 (Iowa 1976).

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35(2) provides:

Date of submission and extension of time for payments and notices.

(2) The submission of any payment, appeal, application, request, notice, objection, petition, report or other information or document not within the specified statutory or regulatory period shall be considered timely if it is established to the satisfaction of the division that the delay in submission was due to division error or misinformation or to delay or other action of the United States postal service.

- a. For submission that is not within the statutory or regulatory period to be considered timely, the interested party must submit a written explanation setting forth the circumstances of the delay.
- b. The division shall designate personnel who are to decide whether an extension of time shall be granted.
- c. No submission shall be considered timely if the delay in filing was unreasonable, as determined by the department after considering the circumstances in the case.
- d. If submission is not considered timely, although the interested party contends that the delay was due to division error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States postal service, the division shall issue an appealable decision to the interested party.

In this case, the claimant never received the decision denying him benefits. He filed his appeal on August 14, 2021, promptly after receiving other decisions stating he was overpaid benefits. As such, the appeal shall be considered timely due to U.S. postal service action in not delivering the initial denial decision to the claimant. The next issue is whether the claimant was eligible for benefits.

Iowa Code § 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", subparagraph (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".

(emphasis added).

Iowa Code § 96.19(38)b provides:

As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

38. "Total and partial unemployment".

a. An individual shall be deemed "totally unemployed" in any week with respect to which no wages are payable to the individual and during which the individual performs no services.

b. An individual shall be deemed partially unemployed in any week in which either of the following apply:

(1) While employed at the individual's then regular job, the individual works less than the regular full-time week and in which the individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

(2) The individual, having been separated from the individual's regular job, earns at odd jobs less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

c. An individual shall be deemed temporarily unemployed if for a period, verified by the department, not to exceed four consecutive weeks, the individual is unemployed due to a plant shutdown, vacation, inventory, lack of work, or emergency from the individual's regular job or trade in which the individual worked full-time and will again work full-time, if the individual's employment, although temporarily suspended, has not been terminated.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.18 provides:

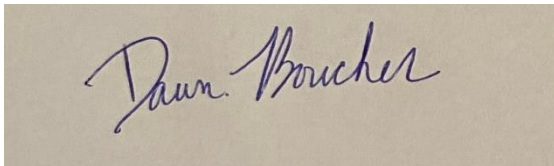
Wage-earnings limitation. An individual who is partially unemployed may earn weekly a sum equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount plus \$15 before being disqualified for excessive earnings. If such individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus \$15, the formula for wage deductions shall be a sum equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount less that part of wages, payable to the individual with respect to that week and rounded to the lower multiple of one dollar, in excess of one-fourth of the individual's weekly benefit amount.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code § 96.3, 96.4 and 96.19(38).

In this case, the claimant filed weekly claims for benefits for the week of May 10, 2020 through May 16, 2020 and May 17, 2020 through May 23, 2020. Claimant was working a reduced schedule the first week due to the employer's lack of work and reduced operating hours. Claimant was totally laid off due to lack of production during the second week he filed for benefits. As such, the claimant was partially unemployed for the week-ending May 16, 2020 and totally unemployed for the week-ending May 23, 2020. Benefits are allowed effective May 10, 2020 through May 23, 2020, provided the claimant remained otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The appeal shall be considered timely. The September 1, 2020 (reference 01) decision is reversed. Claimant was totally or partially unemployed due to lack of production effective May 10, 2020 through May 23, 2020 and benefits are allowed provided the claimant remained otherwise eligible.



Dawn Boucher
Administrative Law Judge

October 12, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

db/mh