

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

LAURA MILTON
Claimant

APPEAL NO: 24A-UI-08202-B2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 08/18/24
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.4-3 – Able and Available
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e – Failure to Report
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(11) – Failure to Report
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.3 – Social Security Number Needed for Filing

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from a decision dated September 12, 2024, (reference 02) that denied benefits effective September 8, 2024, for failure to report for reemployment services. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call before an Administrative Law Judge on October 2, 2024. Claimant did participate. The administrative law judge took notice of the administrative records in this matter.

ISSUES:

Whether claimant failed to report as directed?

Whether claimant is able and available for work?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having examined the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant filed an original claim in this matter on August 18, 2024.

Claimant was sent a document from IWD requesting that claimant visit the local office or arrange for a telephonic meeting with an IWD representative. Claimant stated that she had spoken with IWD on September 6, 2024, and received this document on Saturday, September 7, 2024. The document indicated claimant was to meet on Monday, September 9 at 3:00 pm.

Claimant stated that at the late date she received the notice she was unable to make the necessary changes to make the meeting. Claimant logged on to the IWD website she uses for her weekly reports and requested to change the date of the appointment through an email sent to IWD. This is not sent to the number included on the letter sent to claimant where she was supposed to contact if she was unable to make the appointment. That number was listed on the

document itself indicating that if claimant was unable to make the appointment or wished to change to a telephonic appointment, to call a particular number.

IWD created a reference 03 decision on September 25, 2024 stating that claimant missed an appointment on September 15, 2024. (The administrative law judge notes that September 15, 2024 was on a Sunday and IWD offices were closed.) The decision found claimant's excuse for missing the appointment to be a valid one and held claimant eligible to receive unemployment benefits, if otherwise eligible. The decision did not state a date as to when claimant became eligible for benefits.

Claimant has not filed for unemployment in Iowa previously.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant has established a good cause reason for having failed to report for reemployment services. Benefits allowed.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)e provides:

e. In order to maintain continuing eligibility for benefits during any continuous period of unemployment, an individual shall report as directed to do so by an authorized representative of the department. If the individual has moved to another locality, the individual may register and report in person at a workforce development center at the time previously specified for the reporting.

(1) An individual who files a weekly continued claim will have the benefit payment automatically deposited weekly on a debit card specified by the department.

(2) The department retains the ultimate authority to choose the method of reporting and payment.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.6(1-6) provides:

Reemployment services and eligibility assessment procedure.

(1) The department of workforce development will provide a program which consists of profiling claimants and providing reemployment services.

(1) Purpose.

a. Profiling is a systematic procedure used to identify claimants who, because of certain characteristics, are determined to be permanently separated and most likely to exhaust benefits. Such claimants may be referred to reemployment services.

b. The eligibility assessment program is used to accelerate the individual's return to work and systematically review the individual's efforts towards the same goal.

(3) Reemployment services and eligibility assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. An assessment of the claimant's aptitude, work history, and interest.

- b. Employment counseling regarding reemployment approaches and plans.
- c. Job search assistance and job placement services.
- d. Labor market information.
- e. Job search workshops or job clubs and referrals to employers.
- f. Résumé preparation.
- g. Other similar services.

(4) As part of the initial intake procedure, each claimant shall be required to provide the information necessary for profiling and evaluation of the likelihood of needing reemployment assistance.

(5) The referral of a claimant and the provision of reemployment services is subject to the availability of funding and limitations of the size of the classes.

(6) A claimant shall participate in reemployment services when referred by the department unless the claimant establishes justifiable cause for failure to participate or the claimant has previously completed such training or services. Failure by the claimant to participate without justifiable cause shall disqualify the claimant from the receipt of benefits until the claimant participates in the reemployment services or eligibility assessment. The claimant shall contact the agency prior to the scheduled appointment or service to advise the department of the justifiable cause..

a. Justifiable cause for failure to participate is an important and significant reason which a reasonable person would consider adequate justification in view of the paramount importance of reemployment to the claimant. Justifiable cause includes when the claimant is scheduled for an employment interview, is verified return to work, or both prior to the scheduled appointment or service.

b. Reserved.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 96.4(7).

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.6(1-6) 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.

Claimant made a reasonable- if incorrect – attempt to reach IWD prior to her RCM meeting date to reschedule the appointment. Claimant received the letter telling her of the date with no workdays between the date of receipt and the date of the scheduled meeting. This can explain claimant's rushed action in attempting to contact IWD through the email used to file weekly claims. Claimant's excuse is valid.

Claimant is eligible to receive unemployment benefits as of the date of September 8, 2024 if otherwise eligible.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated September 12, 2024, (reference 02) is reversed. Benefits shall be allowed effective September 8, 2024.



Blair Bennett | Administrative Law Judge II
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals & Licensing

October 3, 2024
Decision Dated and Mailed

bab/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**

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. *There is no filing fee to file an appeal with the Employment Appeal Board.*

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 file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If you do not file 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 www.iowacourts.gov/efile. *There may be a filing fee to file the petition in District Court.*

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. *No hay tarifa de presentación para presentar una apelación ante la Junta de Apelación de Empleo.*

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 no presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelación de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en una acción final de la agencia y tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en www.iowacourts.gov/efile. *Puede haber una tarifa de presentación para presentar la petición en el Tribunal de Distrito.*

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.