

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

CURTIS BATES
Claimant

DENVER MATTRESS COMPANY LLC
Employer

APPEAL 23A-UI-10363-SN-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**OC: 07/09/23
Claimant: Respondent (6-R)**

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.11 – Motions
Iowa Code Ch. 17A – Iowa Administrative Procedure Act
Iowa Code § 96.5(3)a – Failure to Accept Work
Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2) – Able & Available - Benefits Eligibility Conditions

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer, Denver Mattress Company LLC, filed an appeal from the October 23, 2023, (reference 06) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on November 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. The claimant did not participate. Employer participated through Regional Sales Manager Rubin Carranza. It was represented by Hearing Representative Stephanie Reider.

ISSUES:

Does the administrative law judge lack standing to hear an employer appeal of a decision denying benefits?

Did claimant fail to accept a suitable offer of work and if so, was the failure to do so for a good cause reason?

Is the claimant able to work and available for work effective August 19, 2023?

Was there an employment relationship between the two parties?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

The employer, Denver Mattress Company LLC, filed an appeal from the October 23, 2023, (reference 06) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits for the week ending August 19, 2023. It reasoned the claimant was not able and available for work because he was waiting for work from a specific employer rather than taking this job offer. The reason for the appeal was that the employer did not have a record of the claimant working for it. Mr. Carranza denied an offer of work was extended to the claimant for the week ending August 19, 2023.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Generally, courts and administrative tribunals do not decide issues when the underlying controversy is moot. *Rhiner v. State*, 703 N.W.2d 174, 176 (Iowa 2005). “A case is moot if it no longer presents a justiciable controversy because the issues involved are academic or nonexistent.” *Iowa Bankers Ass’n v. Iowa Credit Union Dep’t*, 335 N.W.2d 439, 442 (Iowa 1983)

Since the decision appealed denied benefits to the claimant, there is not a controversy to be resolved between the two parties in this case.

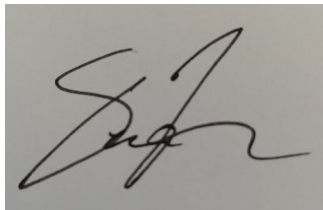
The hearing for November 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. is cancelled.

DECISION:

The October 23, 2023, (reference 06) decision is affirmed. The employer’s appeal is dismissed as lacking standing because the decision it appealed denied benefits.

REMAND:

This matter regarding whether the claimant had an employment relationship is remanded to the Benefits Bureau to make an initial determination with due process rights given to both parties, if it believes such a determination is necessary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean M. Nelson', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Sean M. Nelson
Administrative Law Judge II

November 27, 2023
Decision Dated and Mailed

smn/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:

**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.

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:

**Employment Appeal Board
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Fax: (515)281-7191
Online: 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.