

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

MAREW M TEGEGNE

Claimant

APPEAL 20A-UI-05656-JC-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

QPS EMPLOYMENT GROUP INC

Employer

OC: 04/05/20

Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code § 96.5(1)j – Voluntary Quitting – Temporary Employment

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Overpayment

PL116-136, Sec. 2104 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant/appellant, Marew M. Tegegne, filed an appeal from the June 4, 2020 (reference 01) Iowa Workforce Development (“IWD”) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on June 30, 2020. The claimant participated personally and was represented by Bruce H. Stoltze Jr., attorney at law. Claimant Exhibit 1 was admitted.

The employer did not respond when called at the time of hearing. The Employer Exhibit sent to the Appeals Bureau prior to the hearing was admitted as Employer Exhibit A.

The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative records. Based on the evidence, the arguments presented, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

NOTE TO CLAIMANT: You may find additional information about food, housing, and other resources by dialing 211 or at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/node/3250>

ISSUES:

Did the claimant quit by not reporting for an additional work assignment within three business days of the end of the last assignment?

Has the claimant been overpaid any unemployment insurance benefits?

Is the claimant eligible for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant was employed full-time on assignment for the employer from July 2019 until April 4, 2020 when he was told the assignment had ended due to a lack of work.

When the claimant was hired, he signed the employer's reassignment policy, which required he contact the employer within three business days to request new assignment (Employer Exhibit A). Claimant called the employer, at its Des Moines office, on April 6, 2020 (Claimant Exhibit 1). During a 16 minute phone call, he informed the QPS representative that he had completed the assignment and needed more work, as he could needed to support his family. He was told to wait to be recalled back to work. No offer of work was extended to him. No evidence was presented that the claimant was ineligible for a future assignment after April 4, 2020.

The administrative record reflects that claimant has received unemployment benefits in the amount of \$2,443.00, since filing a claim with an effective date of April 5, 2020. The claimant also received federal unemployment insurance benefits through Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC).

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant voluntarily left the employment with good cause attributable to the employer.

Iowa Code section 96.5(1)j provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits, regardless of the source of the individual's wage credits:

1. Voluntary quitting. If the individual has left work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the individual's employer, if so found by the department. But the individual shall not be disqualified if the department finds that:

j. (1) The individual is a temporary employee of a temporary employment firm who notifies the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment and who seeks reassignment. Failure of the individual to notify the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment within three working days of the completion of each employment assignment under a contract of hire shall be deemed a voluntary quit unless the individual was not advised in writing of the duty to notify the temporary employment firm upon completion of an employment assignment or the individual had good cause for not contacting the temporary employment firm within three working days and notified the firm at the first reasonable opportunity thereafter.

(2) To show that the employee was advised in writing of the notification requirement of this paragraph, the temporary employment firm shall advise the temporary employee by requiring the temporary employee, at the time of employment with the temporary employment firm, to read and sign a document that provides a clear and concise explanation of the notification requirement and the consequences of a failure to notify. The document shall be separate from any contract of employment and a copy of the signed document shall be provided to the temporary employee.

(3) For the purposes of this paragraph:

(a) "Temporary employee" means an individual who is employed by a temporary employment firm to provide services to clients to supplement their workforce during absences, seasonal workloads, temporary skill or labor market shortages, and for special assignments and projects.

(b) "Temporary employment firm" means a person engaged in the business of employing temporary employees.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.26(15) provides:

Employee of temporary employment firm.

a. The individual is a temporary employee of a temporary employment firm who notifies the temporary employment firm within three days of completion of an employment assignment and seeks reassignment under the contract of hire. The employee must be advised by the employer of the notification requirement in writing and receive a copy.

b. The individual shall be eligible for benefits under this subrule if the individual has good cause for not contacting the employer within three days and did notify the employer at the first reasonable opportunity.

c. Good cause is a substantial and justifiable reason, excuse or cause such that a reasonable and prudent person, who desired to remain in the ranks of the employed, would find to be adequate justification for not notifying the employer. Good cause would include the employer's going out of business; blinding snow storm; telephone lines down; employer closed for vacation; hospitalization of the claimant; and other substantial reasons.

d. Notification may be accomplished by going to the employer's place of business, telephoning the employer, faxing the employer, or any other currently acceptable means of communications. Working days means the normal days in which the employer is open for business.

The purpose of the statute is to provide notice to the temporary agency employer that the claimant is available for work at the conclusion of each temporary assignment so they may be reassigned and continue working. The plain language of the statute allows benefits for a claimant "who notifies the temporary employment firm of completion of an employment assignment and who seeks reassignment." The claimant's assignment ended on April 4, 2020. He contacted the employer on April 6, 2020 to request a new assignment and no work was available. Accordingly, the claimant's separation from employment is attributable to the employer. Benefits are allowed, provided he is otherwise eligible.

PL116-136, Sec. 2104 provides, in pertinent part:

(b) Provisions of Agreement

(1) Federal pandemic unemployment compensation.--Any agreement under this section shall provide that the State agency of the State will make payments of regular compensation to individuals in amounts and to the extent that they would be determined if the State law of the State were applied, with respect to any week for which the individual is (disregarding this section) otherwise entitled under the State law to receive regular compensation, as if such State law had been modified in a manner such that the amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable for any week shall be equal to

(A) the amount determined under the State law (before the application of this paragraph), plus

(B) an additional amount of \$600 (in this section referred to as "Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation").

....

(f) Fraud and Overpayments

(2) Repayment.--In the case of individuals who have received amounts of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to which they were not entitled, the State shall require such individuals to repay the amounts of such Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to the State agency...

Here, the claimant is qualified to receive regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Accordingly, this also qualifies claimant to receive Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), so long as he meets all other requirements.

DECISION:

The June 4, 2020 (reference 01) initial decision is reversed. The claimant's separation was attributable to the employer. Benefits are allowed, provided he is otherwise eligible. The claimant has not been overpaid benefits. The claimant is also eligible for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, provided he meets all other requirements.



Jennifer L. Beckman
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July 10, 2020
Decision Dated and Mailed

jlb/scn