

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**MICHAEL A FRITZ**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 11A-UI-06769-S2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**GREGORY A VICK**  
**DECORAH AUTO BODY**  
Employer

**OC: 10/17/10**  
**Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Section 96.5-3-a – Refusal to Accept Suitable Work

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Michael Fritz (claimant) appealed a representative's May 11, 2011 decision (reference 01) that concluded he was not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits because he refused suitable work with Decorah Auto Body (employer). After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was scheduled for June 15, 2011. The claimant participated personally. The employer did not provide a telephone number where it could be reached and therefore, did not participate in the hearing.

**ISSUE:**

The issue is whether the claimant refused suitable work.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: On April 11, 2011, the claimant called the employer asking for work. The employer told the claimant to come in and complete an application for work. He and another person would review the application. The claimant did not complete the application because the work was 30 miles from the claimant's home. The claimant continued to look for work closer to home.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow the administrative law judge concludes the claimant did not refuse an offer of suitable work.

Iowa Code § 96.5-3-a provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

3. Failure to accept work. If the department finds that an individual has failed, without good cause, either to apply for available, suitable work when directed by the department or to accept suitable work when offered that individual. The department shall, if possible,

furnish the individual with the names of employers which are seeking employees. The individual shall apply to and obtain the signatures of the employers designated by the department on forms provided by the department. However, the employers may refuse to sign the forms. The individual's failure to obtain the signatures of designated employers, which have not refused to sign the forms, shall disqualify the individual for benefits until requalified. To requalify for benefits after disqualification under this subsection, the individual shall work in and be paid wages for insured work equal to ten times the individual's weekly benefit amount, provided the individual is otherwise eligible.

a. In determining whether or not any work is suitable for an individual, the department shall consider the degree of risk involved to the individual's health, safety, and morals, the individual's physical fitness, prior training, length of unemployment, and prospects for securing local work in the individual's customary occupation, the distance of the available work from the individual's residence, and any other factor which the department finds bears a reasonable relation to the purposes of this paragraph. Work is suitable if the work meets all the other criteria of this paragraph and if the gross weekly wages for the work equal or exceed the following percentages of the individual's average weekly wage for insured work paid to the individual during that quarter of the individual's base period in which the individual's wages were highest:

- (1) One hundred percent, if the work is offered during the first five weeks of unemployment.
- (2) Seventy-five percent, if the work is offered during the sixth through the twelfth week of unemployment.
- (3) Seventy percent, if the work is offered during the thirteenth through the eighteenth week of unemployment.
- (4) Sixty-five percent, if the work is offered after the eighteenth week of unemployment.

However, the provisions of this paragraph shall not require an individual to accept employment below the federal minimum wage.

No work was offered to the claimant on April 11, 2011. The employer did not tell the claimant a start date, a rate of pay or number of hours to be worked per week. The claimant is qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits, if he is otherwise eligible.

**DECISION:**

The representative's May 11, 2011 decision (reference 01) is reversed. The claimant is qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits, if he is otherwise eligible.

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Beth A. Scheetz  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/pjs