

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

MEGAN N WARD
Claimant

APPEAL 21A-UI-12916-LJ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 02/28/21
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able and Available/Work Search
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(3) – Earnest and Active Search for Work
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(28) – Work Search Warning

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On May 25, 2021, claimant Megan N. Ward filed an appeal from the May 19, 2021, (reference 01), unemployment insurance decision that warned claimant to make at least two work-search contacts per week but did not deny benefits for the week ending May 15, 2021. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 17, 2021. No hearing was held as there was sufficient information in the appeal letter administrative record to resolve the matter without testimony.

ISSUE:

Did the claimant make an adequate work search for the week ending May 15, 2021, and was the warning appropriate?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant claimed benefits for the week ending May 15, 2021. According to the claimant's record of work search and the administrative record she did make two work searches for that week. She appears to have made an error in the reporting system when filing the weekly claim.

Claimant provided documentation with her appeal letter establishing the two job contacts she made for the relevant week. On May 13, 2021, claimant applied for a position with Medallia. On May 14, 2021, claimant applied for a position with Danaher.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant has made an active and earnest search for work during the week-ending May 15, 2021.

Iowa Code section 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", unnumbered paragraph (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".

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(28) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

(28) A claimant will be ineligible for benefits because of failure to make an adequate work search after having been previously warned and instructed to expand the search for work effort.

The claimant has sufficiently demonstrated to the satisfaction of the administrative law judge an active and earnest search for work for the week ending May 15, 2021. Accordingly, the warning was not appropriate and will be reversed.

DECISION:

The May 19, 2021, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant did make an active and earnest search for work for the week ending May 15, 2021. Therefore, the warning was not appropriate.



Elizabeth A. Johnson
Administrative Law Judge
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July 28, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

lj/scn