

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

FREDERICK HOUWEN
Claimant

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

APPEAL 21A-UI-11402-DG-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 03/29/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Overpayment of Benefits
PL116-136, Sec. 2104 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant/appellant filed an appeal from the April 16, 2021 unemployment insurance decision that found claimant was overpaid for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) in the amount of \$14,700.00 for 30 weeks ending March 27, 2021.

The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on September 16, 2021. The claimant participated personally. Daniel Noonan, Investigator II participated on behalf of IWD. IWD Exhibits 1-15 were admitted. The administrative law judge took official notice of the claimant's unemployment insurance benefits records.

ISSUE:

Is the claimant overpaid FPUC for 30 weeks ending March 27, 2021?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) overpayment issue in this case was created by a disqualification decision that has now been affirmed. Claimant is overpaid \$14,700.00 for the 30 weeks ending March 27, 2021.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 96.3(7)*a, b*, as amended in 2008, provides:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits.

a. If an individual receives benefits for which the individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible, even though the individual acts in good faith and is not otherwise at fault, the benefits shall be recovered. The department in its discretion may recover the overpayment of benefits either by having a sum equal to the overpayment deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual or by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to the overpayment.

b. (1) (a) If the department determines that an overpayment has been made, the charge for the overpayment against the employer's account shall be removed and the account shall be credited with an amount equal to the overpayment from the unemployment compensation trust fund and this credit shall include both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5. The employer shall not be relieved of charges if benefits are paid because the employer or an agent of the employer failed to respond timely or adequately to the department's request for information relating to the payment of benefits. This prohibition against relief of charges shall apply to both contributory and reimbursable employers.

(b) However, provided the benefits were not received as the result of fraud or willful misrepresentation by the individual, benefits shall not be recovered from an individual if the employer did not participate in the initial determination to award benefits pursuant to section 96.6, subsection 2, and an overpayment occurred because of a subsequent reversal on appeal regarding the issue of the individual's separation from employment.

(2) An accounting firm, agent, unemployment insurance accounting firm, or other entity that represents an employer in unemployment claim matters and demonstrates a continuous pattern of failing to participate in the initial determinations to award benefits, as determined and defined by rule by the department, shall be denied permission by the department to represent any employers in unemployment insurance matters. This subparagraph does not apply to attorneys or counselors admitted to practice in the courts of this state pursuant to section 602.10101.

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the CARES Act, which included the Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act set out in Title II, Subtitle A. Section 2104 of the CARES Act created the FPUC program, which was a new temporary federal supplemental payment. On December 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, which includes Division N, Title II, Subtitle A, the Continued Assistance Act. Section 203 reauthorizes the FPUC program for weeks of unemployment beginning after December 26, 2020 and ending on or before March 14, 2021 but modifies the weekly supplement amount to \$300.00.

PL 116-136, Sec. 2104 (15 U.S.C. 9023) 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...

Section 203 of the Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020 provides in pertinent part as follows:

(a) IN GENERAL. – Section 2104(e) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9023(e)) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) APPLICABILITY. – An agreement entered into under this section shall apply –

(1) to weeks of unemployment beginning after the date on which such agreement is entered into and ending on or before July 31, 2020; and

(2) to weeks of unemployment beginning after December 26, 2020 (or, if later, the date on which such agreement is entered into), and ending on or before March 14, 2021.”.

(b) AMOUNT.-

(1) IN GENERAL. – Section 2104(b) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9023(b)) is amended –

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “of \$600” and inserting “equal to the amount specified in paragraph (3)”; and

(B) by adding at the end of the following new paragraph:

“(3) AMOUNT OF FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.-

“(A) IN GENERAL. – The amount specified in this paragraph is the following amount:

“(i) For weeks of unemployment beginning after the date on which an agreement is entered into under this section and ending on or before July 31, 2020, \$600.

“(ii) For weeks of unemployment beginning after December 26, 2020 (or, if later, the date on which such agreement is entered into), and ending on or before March 14, 2021, \$300.”.

The administrative law judge concludes that claimant is overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) in the amount of \$14,700.00 for the 30 weeks ending March 27, 2021 pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.3-7 and PL116-136, Sec. 2104 as the disqualification decision that created the overpayment decision has now been affirmed.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated March 27, 2021, is affirmed. Claimant is overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) in the amount of \$14,700.00.



Duane L. Golden
Administrative Law Judge

September 29, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

dlg/ol