

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

ROY A VANAERNAM
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 08A-UI-02606-LT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

VETTER EQUIPMENT CO INC
Employer

OC: 01/20/08 R: 01
Claimant: Appellant (2)

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) - Able and Available

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed a timely appeal from the March 12, 2008, reference 02, decision that denied benefits. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was held on April 1, 2008. Claimant participated with his spouse, Belinda Vanaernam. Witness Richard Drews was not available. Employer participated through Glen Vetter and Julie Vetter.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether claimant is able to and available for work effective January 20, 2008.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant was employed as a farm implement sales person working full time until his separation in December 27, 2007. He has been treated for sleep apnea, anxiety, and depression since January 2006 and has no physical impairments but must avoid stress situations such as deadlines and sales pressures. His treating physician, Albert Velter, M.D., has reported claimant is a suitable candidate for occupational rehabilitation in his most recent job as of April or May 2008 or any other work at any time and does not find him to be disabled. (Employer's Exhibit 1) Claimant is searching for non-commission retail sales (such as hardware store clerk), farm-related work, and factory work.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant is able to work and available for work.

Iowa Code § 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".

871 IAC 24.22(1)a and (2) provides:

Benefits eligibility conditions. For an individual to be eligible to receive benefits the department must find that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. The individual bears the burden of establishing that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work.

(1) Able to work. An individual must be physically and mentally able to work in some gainful employment, not necessarily in the individual's customary occupation, but which is engaged in by others as a means of livelihood.

a. Illness, injury or pregnancy. Each case is decided upon an individual basis, recognizing that various work opportunities present different physical requirements. A statement from a medical practitioner is considered prima facie evidence of the physical ability of the individual to perform the work required. A pregnant individual must meet the same criteria for determining ableness as do all other individuals.

(2) Available for work. The availability requirement is satisfied when an individual is willing, able, and ready to accept suitable work which the individual does not have good cause to refuse, that is, the individual is genuinely attached to the labor market. Since, under unemployment insurance laws, it is the availability of an individual that is required to be tested, the labor market must be described in terms of the individual. A labor market for an individual means a market for the type of service which the individual offers in the geographical area in which the individual offers the service. Market in that sense does not mean that job vacancies must exist; the purpose of unemployment insurance is to compensate for lack of job vacancies. It means only that the type of services which an individual is offering is generally performed in the geographical area in which the individual is offering the services.

Claimant has no medical restriction or other limitation on his employability effective January 2, 2008. Accordingly, benefits are allowed.

DECISION:

The March 12, 2008, reference 02, decision is reversed. The claimant is able to work and available for work effective January 20, 2008. Benefits are allowed.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/kjw