

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

KIM L OFTEDAHL
Claimant

APPEAL 18A-UI-05458-NM-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

OC: 04/08/18
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.6(1) – Filing Claims
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)g – Retroactive Benefits

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the May 8, 2018, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that denied the request for retroactive benefits. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled for June 1, 2018. Claimant participated.

ISSUE:

Should the claimant's request for retroactive benefits be granted for the one-week period ending April 28, 2018?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant filed an original claim effective April 8, 2018. She did not file a continued claim by online web application for the one-week period ending April 28, 2018, and did not inquire about the issue of benefit non-payment with Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) until May 7, 2018. On May 3 and 4, 2018, claimant tried to log on to file her weekly continued claim for the week ending April 28, 2018, but received an error message each time. Claimant did not make any attempt to contact Iowa Workforce Development about the issue prior to May 7 because she was completing training for a new job. Claimant testified she was working from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days and did not receive any breaks, but also admitted she did not ask her new employer if she could take a few minutes to call IWD to try to resolve the issue. Rather, claimant assumed her account was locked due to an upcoming fact-finding interview.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request for retroactive benefits is denied.

Iowa Code section 96.6(1) provides:

1. Filing. Claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such regulations as the department may prescribe.

In order to be eligible for weekly benefits, the claimant must file an online web application continued claim or show good cause for the failure to do so to support a request for retroactive benefits. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)g.

During the week in which the unemployment occurs, the claimant should open an umbrella-like “original claim” (OC) by the close of business on Friday to establish the general claim for unemployment insurance benefits. In addition, for each week the claimant remains unemployed, they must file a “weekly continued claim” (WCC) to show they are available for work, report any wages, and otherwise establish eligibility for that past week of benefit payment. That must be done sometime between Sunday and Friday of the following week (see chart below). If a claimant does not file a WCC for one week for any reason and becomes unemployed again, the process must start over by reopening the OC no later than Friday, and filing weekly continued claim sometime between the following Sunday through Friday. No filing of any kind may be done on any Saturday.

The April 2018, version of the *Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook*, provides in pertinent part at pages 13 and 14:

Claim Effective Date

The effective date of all UI claims, regardless of filing method, will be the Sunday of the week in which the application was filed. The effective date of a claim will not be changed for applications that were not filed in a timely manner.

IMPORTANT: If an individual waits until after the calendar week has ended on Saturday to file a UI claim, the individual will not be eligible to be paid for the prior week.

and

Reactivating a Claim

An individual can start and stop claiming weekly benefits as many times as necessary during the benefit year. This is called a break in reporting status. Any break in reporting requires the individual to file another initial claim application during the week he/she wants to start collecting benefits again. Any employment during the break must be reported. If any weekly claim filing is missed during the claim year, an individual must file an initial claim application to reactivate their claim. This would apply even if 1 week is not filed timely. Refer to the instructions on page 19 of this handbook “Filing Weekly Claim”.

The April 2018, version of the *Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook*, provides in pertinent part at pages 20:

Filing Weekly Claims

How to File

After you file your initial claim, file weekly claims online at iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov for every week you are unemployed or your hours are reduced. You must file a weekly claim for any week that you want payment even if your eligibility is being decided or you have an appeal pending. Payment will not be made for any weeks that are not filed timely. If a weekly

claim filing is missed for one or more weeks, a new initial claim application must be filed. It is your responsibility to check the status of your claim during the week to ensure the prior week has been recorded.

To request UI benefit payments during weeks of unemployment, individuals must certify they:

- Are currently unemployed or working reduced hours
- Are able to work and available for work
- Have not refused any job offers or referrals to a job
- Are actively looking for work (unless waived)
- Are reporting any pay or pension payment

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Start of UI claim week one | | | | | | Last day of week one (no filing) |
| First day to file week one | File for week one | File for week one | File for week one | File for week one | Last day to file for week one | Last day of week two (no filing) |
| First day to file week two | File for week two | File for week two | File for week two | File for week two | Last day to file for week two | Last day of week three (no filing) |
| First day to file week three | File for week three | File for week three | File for week three | File for week three | Last day to file for week three | Last day of week four (no filing) |

When to File

The current week is the week that just ended on Saturday. Weekly claims must be filed 8 am Sunday through 5:30 pm Friday for the prior week only. This means individuals have six days to file the previous week’s claim. See the chart above for the days available to file. Weekly claims can be filed online using a mobile device or computer at <https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/weeklyclaims/>.

Delay in filing your weekly claim could result in denial of benefits.

IMPORTANT: You will receive confirmation that the claim has been processed successfully. If you don’t receive confirmation, the process must be repeated until the claim has been successfully submitted.

Elsewhere in the April 2018, version of the handbook at page 8, contact information includes days and hours for filing a claim and weekly claim reporting:

File a Claim

Hours: Sunday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov
<https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/UIInitialClaim/>

Weekly Claim Reporting

Hours: Sunday 8:00 am – 11:30 pm and Monday through Friday 8:00 am through 5:30 pm
<https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/weeklyclaims/>

Here, the Unemployment Insurance Handbook clearly warns claimants that the claim must be submitted until confirmation is received that the filing was successful. Claimant continued to get an error message indicating her claim was not successfully filed. The Unemployment Insurance Handbook also clearly states that claims filed after the calendar week has ended will not be paid. Claimant did not follow up with IWD about the issues she was experiencing until after the calendar week had ended, on May 7, 2018. Claimant’s failure to follow the instructions in the

Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook is not considered a good reason for having failed to file weekly online web application continued claims. Retroactive benefits are denied.

Claimant is urged to review information in the Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook at: https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/sites/search.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/files/documents/ClaimantHandbook_2017-18.pdf

DECISION:

The May 8, 2018, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant's request for retroactive benefits is denied.

Nicole Merrill
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

nm/rvs