

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

---

**LORA L WHITTEMORE**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 17A-UI-11449-JC-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 11/20/16  
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

---

Iowa Code § 96.6(1) – Filing Claims  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1), (2) – Backdating

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Claimant filed a timely appeal from the October 31, 2017, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision that denied the request to backdate the claim for benefits prior to October 29, 2017. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on November 29, 2017. Claimant participated. Shelly Stoker, Human Resources Manager at Hill Phoenix Inc., also testified. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative records including the fact-finding documents. Based on the evidence, the arguments presented, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

**ISSUE:**

May the claim be backdated prior to October 29, 2017?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant filed a claim for benefits with an effective date of November 20, 2016, and an additional claim date effective October 29, 2017, and desires to backdate the claim to October 22, 2017. The claimant was temporarily laid off for the week ending October 28, 2017 from Hill Phoenix Inc. and failed to establish an additional claim during the week she was unemployed.

The department has not failed to recognize the expiration of the claimant's previous benefit year and there is not an interstate claim against another state which has been determined as ineligible.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request to backdate the claim must be denied.

Iowa Code § 96.6-1 provides:

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

Effective Wednesday, July 12, 2017, for claims effective July 16, 2017:

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1) and (2) provide:

**Procedures for workers desiring to file a claim for benefits for unemployment insurance.**

(1) Section 96.6 of the employment security law of Iowa states that claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such rules as the department prescribes. The department of workforce development accordingly prescribes:

*h.* Effective starting date for the benefit year.

(1) Filing for benefits shall be effective as of Sunday of the current calendar week in which, subsequent to the individual's separation from work, an individual files a claim for benefits.

(2) The claim may be backdated prior to the first day of the calendar week in which the claimant does report and file a claim for the following reasons:

1. The failure of the department to recognize the expiration of the claimant's previous benefit year;
2. The claimant filed an interstate claim against another state which has been determined as ineligible.

The September 2017, 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.

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.

While the claimant has presented reasons for backdating that would have previously been considered "sufficient grounds" to grant the request, after an agency and legislative rulemaking process, effective July 12, 2017, Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)h(1) and (2) allows backdating for only the two reasons cited above. Neither of those reasons applies in this case. Accordingly, the backdating request must be denied.

**DECISION:**

The October 31, 2017, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant's request to backdate the claim is denied.

---

Jennifer L. Beckman  
Administrative Law Judge

---

Decision Dated and Mailed

jlb/scn