

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

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**MICHAEL D SCHEEL**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 20A-UI-07455-DB-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**YOUNG PLUMBING & HEATING CO**  
Employer

**OC: 03/15/20**  
**Claimant: Respondent (2)**

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Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able to and Available for Work  
Iowa Code § 96.19(38)B – Partial Unemployment  
Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(2) – Same Base Period Employment  
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Overpayment of Benefits  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(26) – Able & Available – Part time, same hours and wages  
PL 116-136 Section 2104(B) – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The employer/appellant filed an appeal from the June 25, 2020 (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that found claimant was eligible for unemployment benefits due to a short-term layoff. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on August 10, 2020. The claimant, Michael D. Scheel, did not participate. The employer, Young Plumbing & Heating Co., participated through witness Travis Young. Employer's Exhibit 1 was admitted. The administrative law judge took administrative notice of the claimant's unemployment insurance benefits records.

**ISSUES:**

Is the claimant eligible for total or partial unemployment benefits?  
Is claimant employed for the same hours and wages?  
Is the claimant able to and available for work?  
Is the employer's account subject to charges?  
Is the claimant overpaid benefits?  
Is the claimant overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant started working for this employer on March 12, 2007. He is still employed to date. Claimant works full-time as a plumber. Claimant filed his original claim for benefits effective March 15, 2020. His weekly-benefit amount is \$591.00.

Claimant's administrative records establish that he has filed weekly-continued claims for benefits for the week-ending March 21, 2020 and March 28, 2020. Claimant has not received any regular unemployment insurance benefits or any Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefits for any weekly-continued claims filed because the amount of wages he earned each week have exceeded his weekly-benefit amount, plus \$15.00.

As of March 15, 2020, claimant's full-time hours at this employer were reduced from 30 to 40 hours due to the COVID 19 pandemic. This occurred for five weeks. Claimant has been back working full-time hours following that five-week period.

### **REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes as follows:

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", subparagraph (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".

(emphasis added).

Iowa Code § 96.19(38)b provides:

As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

38. "Total and partial unemployment".

a. An individual shall be deemed "totally unemployed" in any week with respect to which no wages are payable to the individual and during which the individual performs no services.

b. An individual shall be deemed partially unemployed in any week in which either of the following apply:

(1) While employed at the individual's then regular job, the individual works less than the regular full-time week and in which the individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

(2) The individual, having been separated from the individual's regular job, earns at odd jobs less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

c. An individual shall be deemed temporarily unemployed if for a period, verified by the department, not to exceed four consecutive weeks, the individual is unemployed due to a plant shutdown, vacation, inventory, lack of work, or emergency from the individual's regular job or trade in which the individual worked full-time and will again work full-time, if the individual's employment, although temporarily suspended, has not been terminated.

Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(2)a provides:

Contribution rates based on benefit experience.

a. (2) The amount of regular benefits plus fifty percent of the amount of extended benefits paid to an eligible individual shall be charged against the account of the employers in the base period in the inverse chronological order in which the employment of the individual occurred.

(a) However, if the individual to whom the benefits are paid is in the employ of a base period employer at the time the individual is receiving the benefits, and the *individual is receiving the same employment from the employer that the individual received during the individual's base period*, benefits paid to the individual shall not be charged against the account of the employer. This provision applies to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding subparagraph (3) and section 96.8, subsection 5.

(emphasis added).

In this case, the claimant has not been totally unemployed for any weekly-continued claims that have been filed to date. However, the claimant has worked a reduced work schedule during the weeks in which he has already filed weekly-continued claims. In each of those weeks, he has earned wages in excess of his weekly-benefit amount, plus fifteen dollars. As such, because the claimant has earned wages in excess of his weekly-benefit amount, plus fifteen dollars, he cannot be considered partially unemployed for the weeks-ending March 21 and March 28, 2020. Benefits are denied for those weeks. Because no benefits were paid to the claimant, the overpayment issues are moot.

#### **DECISION:**

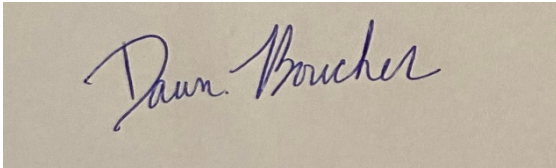
The June 25, 2020 (reference 02) decision is reversed. Claimant was not totally, partially or temporarily unemployed. Benefits are denied effective March 15, 2020.

#### **Note to Claimant**

- This decision determines you are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits funded by the State of Iowa under state law. If you disagree with this decision you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision.
- If you do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits funded by the State of Iowa under state law, you may qualify for benefits under the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance ("PUA") section of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("Cares Act") that discusses eligibility for claimants who are unemployed due to the Coronavirus.
- **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility under the program.**  
For additional information on how to apply for PUA go to:  
<https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>.
- If you are denied regular unemployment insurance benefits funded by the State of Iowa and wish to apply for PUA, please visit:  
<https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information> and scroll down to "Submit Proof Here." You will fill out the questionnaire regarding the reason you are not working and upload a picture or copy of your fact-finding decision. Your claim will be reviewed for PUA eligibility. If you are eligible for PUA, you will also be eligible for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) until the program expires. Back payments PUA

benefits may automatically be used to repay any overpayment of state benefits. If this does not occur on your claim, you may repay any overpayment by visiting:  
<https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/unemployment-insurance-overpayment-and-recovery>.

- If you have applied and have been approved for PUA benefits, this decision will **not** negatively affect your entitlement to PUA benefits.

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dawn Boucher". The signature is written on a light-colored, textured background.

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Dawn Boucher  
Administrative Law Judge

August 17, 2020  
Decision Dated and Mailed

db/scn