**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**
**P.O. BOX 111149**
**JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-1149**

# DECISION OF THE COMMISSIONER
**Docket No. 26 0543**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

| **CLAIMANT:** | **EMPLOYER:** |
|---|---|
| BRENDA BOWLIN | CENTRAL PENINSULA GEN HOSP |

The claimant appealed a Tribunal decision issued on September 28, 2026, that affirmed a division determination finding the claimant did not have good cause for quitting work, which caused claimant's benefits to be denied for the weeks ending August 29, 2026, through October 3, 2026.

In her request for Department review, the claimant stated:

> "I want to appeal for the second time. I spoke to attorney and did what she told me to do. I should not have to go hungry and not be able to pay for my medication because of cpgh. I did get a phone call from Kaylee Hilton and she told me that my concerns we had spoke about was being addressed, supervisor lying, all the hoops hoops violations and other things. She did say I could apply for other jobs that come open. Just not for pas. I have been looking for work. I am not lazy and do not use the system. I paid I to unemployment for yrs."

Unfortunately, the claimant's attorney may not have understood or considered the effect quitting a job would have on the claimant's eligibility for unemployment benefits. Regardless, acting on the advice of an attorney does not in and of itself create a compelling reason for quitting work.

Additionally, the unemployment insurance program is not a needs-based program. Therefore, the claimant's financial circumstances cannot be considered when determining whether a penalty for quitting work should be imposed.

We have reviewed the claimant's statements and arguments on appeal and found nothing to establish any clear error in the Tribunal decision.

Under AS 23.20.435, an appeal to the Department by a party is a matter of right only if the decision of the Tribunal reverses or modifies the division determination, or if a question arising under AS 23.20.383 is presented. In all other cases, further appeal to the Department is permitted only at the discretion of the Department.

In exercising this discretion, the Department will accept an appeal from a Tribunal decision that did not reverse or modify the original determination if the Tribunal decision is clearly erroneous, or the appeal presents a policy question requiring the Department's opinion.

In this case, the Tribunal decision did not reverse or modify the division's determination, is not clearly erroneous, and presents no new policy question. Therefore, the claimant's request for further appeal to the Department is **DENIED**.

**FURTHER APPEAL** may be had from this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal in Superior Court for the State of Alaska within 30 days from the date of mailing of this decision as provided in AS 23.20.445, AS 44.62.560-570, and the Rules of Appellate Procedure of the State of Alaska. Unless an appeal is filed within the 30-day period, this decision is final.

**Dated and Mailed on November 9, 2026.**

**CATHERINE MUÑOZ,**
**COMMISSIONER**