



APPEAL TRIBUNAL DECISION

Docket number: 23 0486 **Hearing date:** August 10, 2023

CLAIMANT:

STEPHANIE WEBB
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CLAIMANT APPEARANCES:

Stephanie Webb

DETS APPEARANCES:

None

CASE HISTORY

The claimant timely appealed a July 8, 2023 determination which denied benefits under AS 23.20.378 and 8 AAC 85.350-351. The issue is whether the claimant met the registration requirements to be considered available for full-time work.

FINDINGS OF FACT

On June 14, 2023, the claimant established a claim for unemployment insurance benefits effective June 11, 2023. The claimant was advised during the application process of the requirement to register for work and post a résumé on the Division's AlaskaJobs website within seven days or benefits would be denied. Within a week, the claimant attempted to access her previously posted résumé on the Division's website, but she was unable to log in.

The claimant called the Division's claim center, and she was advised to go to her local Job Center for assistance. The claimant went to her local Job Center several times and there was no representative available. On July 5, 2023, the claimant drove to another Job Center over an hour away from her residence where she received assistance. The claimant was advised there was a problem with a zip code on her file that was preventing her from logging in. The representative corrected the zip code and the claimant was able to post her résumé that day.

PROVISIONS OF LAW

AS 23.20.378 provides, in part:

- (a) An insured worker is entitled to receive waiting-week credit or benefits for a week of unemployment if for that week the insured worker is able to work and available for suitable work....

8 AAC 85.350 provides, in part:

- (b) A claimant is considered available for suitable work for a week if the claimant
 - (1) registers for work as required under 8 AAC 85.351;
 - (2) makes independent efforts to find work as directed under 8 AAC 85.352 and 8 AAC 85.355;
 - (3) meets the requirements of 8 AAC 85.353 during periods of travel;
 - (4) meets the requirements of 8 AAC 85.356 while in training;
 - (5) is willing to accept and perform suitable work which the claimant does not have good cause to refuse;
 - (6) is available, for at least five working days in the week to respond promptly to an offer of suitable work; and
 - (7) is available for a substantial amount of full-time employment.

8 AAC 85.351 provides:

- (a) a claimant who files a claim for benefits in a state that acts as agent in taking claims for benefits held by this state shall register for work in accordance with the statutes, regulations, and procedures of the state in which the claim is filed.
- (b) a claimant who files for benefits in this state shall register for work as required by AS 23.20 and this section. A claimant shall register for work
 - (1) repealed 3/4/2006;
 - (2) in person or by mail at the employment service office of the division that is nearest the claimant's residence;
 - (3) by telephone, if permitted by the director; or
 - (4) at the department's website by electronic means, if available from the division.
- (c) The director shall find that a claimant is not available for work for any week ending before completion of a placement registration for work. To be considered available for work from the date of the initial claim, a claimant must complete a placement registration within seven days after filing the initial claim. If the placement registration is not completed within seven days, the claimant is considered available for work the week the placement registration

- is completed.
- (g) The director may defer registration for work for a claimant who is
 - (1) temporarily unemployed with a definite date to return to full-time work within 45 days after the date the claimant files the initial claim;
 - (2) unemployed due to a labor dispute;
 - (3) traveling immediately following the filing of the initial claim, for the purpose of relocating outside of this state; upon arrival in the new area of residence, the claimant shall register for work as required in (a) of this section;
 - (5) normally hired through a trade union, if the union furnishes information when requested by the director to verify the claimant's current membership and eligibility for dispatch;
 - (8) under an approved waiver of availability under AS 23.20.378 or AS 23.20.382.
 - (i) If the director does not require the claimant to have a placement registration, the director shall inform the claimant that the placement registration requirement has been deferred and advise the claimant of available employment services.

CONCLUSION

Alaska Statute 23.20.378 requires that a claimant be able to work and available for work in a week in order to be eligible for benefits for a week of unemployment. Regulation 8 AAC 85.351 provides that to be considered available for work, a claimant must register and post a résumé on the Division's AlaskaJobs website that can be matched with available jobs. If the résumé is not posted online within seven days, the claimant is considered available for work the week the résumé is posted online.

The claimant's testimony was straightforward and credible. The claimant began the process to complete a résumé on the Division's AlaskaJobs website within seven days of establishing her claim. The claimant was unable to log in to the website and she immediately attempted to get assistance logging in, however for some reason no assistance was available at her local Job Center, so she drove to another Job Center where she was assisted to log in.

In Ward Com. Dec. No. 06 1433, September 27, 2006:

The Commissioner held a credible claimant complied with ALEXsys registration requirements and was allowed benefits where "The claimant could not recall if, when he created his first résumé, the program advised him that the résumé had been saved to ALEXsys. His testimony during the hearing was straightforward and confident. We believe that he did in fact prepare his résumé as instructed and for some unknown reason it was not saved properly to ALEXsys."

In Ward, the Commissioner refers to the Division's work registration website as ALEXsys, however the Division currently uses a website referred to as "AlaskaJobs" to meet the registration requirements of regulation 8 AAC 85.351.

The Appeal Tribunal holds the claimant in this case met registration requirements as soon as could reasonably be expected. The claimant was available for work during the period under review.

DECISION

The determination issued on July 8, 2023 is **REVERSED**. Benefits are **ALLOWED** for the weeks ending June 17, 2023 through July 1, 2023, if the claimant is otherwise eligible.

APPEAL RIGHTS

This decision is final unless an appeal is filed in writing to the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development **within 30 days** after the decision is mailed to each party. The appeal period may be extended only if the appeal is delayed for circumstances beyond the party's control. A statement of rights and procedures is enclosed.

Dated and mailed on August 21, 2023.

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Rhonda Buness.

Rhonda Buness, Appeals Officer