

STATE OF FLORIDA
REEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE APPEALS COMMISSION

In the matter of:

Claimant/Appellant

R.A.A.C. Docket No. 20-01585

vs.

Referee Decision No. 0052211338-02U

Employer/-None

ORDER OF REEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE APPEALS COMMISSION

ORDER DISMISSING APPEAL
FOR LACK OF JURISDICTION

This case comes before the Commission for disposition of the claimant's purported appeal of a referee's decision pursuant to Section 443.151(4)(c), Florida Statutes.

The referee issued a decision on November 25, 2020, holding the claimant not monetarily qualified to receive regular state reemployment assistance benefits. Section 443.151(4)(c), Florida Statutes, provides that an adversely affected party may appeal a referee's decision to the Commission. An appeal to the Commission must be in writing and "express disagreement with or otherwise indicate a desire to appeal" the referee's decision. Fla. Admin. Code R. 73B-21.002.

A referee's jurisdiction extends only to the issues addressed in the underlying determination appealed to the referee. §443.151(4)(b), Fla. Stat. Similarly, the Commission's jurisdiction extends only to the issues addressed in the referee's decision appealed to the Commission. §443.151(4)(c), Fla. Stat. Neither the referee nor the Commission has jurisdiction over the general processing of reemployment assistance claims or the disbursement of benefit payments.¹

¹ The quasi-judicial process for deciding issues relating to claims under the reemployment assistance law differs from judicial proceedings such as for criminal and civil matters. In court proceedings, judicial economy and efficiency dictates that all related legal claims and defenses relating to a specific past incident or series of incidents be joined together in the same proceeding. *See, e.g.*, Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.110(g); Fla.R.Crim.P. 3.150(a). By contrast, the claims evaluation and management processes for reemployment assistance proceedings, applying as they do to claims that are ongoing and which must be processed expeditiously to provide benefits as soon as feasible, dictate that specific issues are identified, evaluated, and decided individually through separate determinations. The appeals referee and the Commission do not have plenary authority over claims; instead, they have statutory authority only over the issues identified in the underlying determinations.

Having reviewed the claimant's request for review in this case, the requested relief did not indicate disagreement with, or otherwise challenge, the merits of the decision or the underlying determination; consequently, the Commission is without legal jurisdiction to proceed with a review of the referee's decision.²

In his request for review to the Commission, the claimant challenges a hold that was placed on the payment of his Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits³ as a result of his allegedly having returned to work. Pursuant to the Commission's inquiries, the Department has reviewed and removed the hold, and the claimant's PUA payments have been processed and deposited into his account.

The claimant has not asserted a proper basis for disagreement with the *referee's decision*; consequently, the appeal is dismissed.

It is so ordered.

REEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE APPEALS COMMISSION

Frank E. Brown, Chairman
Thomas D. Epsky, Member
Joseph D. Finnegan, Member

This is to certify that on
1/14/2021,
the above order was filed in the office of
the Clerk of the Reemployment
Assistance Appeals Commission, and a
copy mailed to the last known address
of each interested party.
By: Benjamin Bonnell
Deputy Clerk

² The request, instead, relates to general problems with the claimant's claim or with the receipt of benefits.

³ In his request for review, the claimant erroneously refers to the relevant benefits as Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC).



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
REEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
PO BOX 5250
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32314 5250



*173722503 *

Docket No.0052 2113 38-02

Jurisdiction: §443.151(4)(a)&(b) Florida Statutes

CLAIMANT/Appellant

EMPLOYER/Appellee

APPEARANCES:

Claimant

DECISION OF APPEALS REFEREE

Important appeal rights are explained at the end of this decision.

Derechos de apelación importantes son explicados al final de esta decisión.

Yo eksplike kèk dwa dapèl enpòtan lan fen desizyon sa a.

WAGE CREDITS: Whether the claimant was paid sufficient base period wages to qualify for unemployment compensation benefits, pursuant to Sections 443.036(21), (27), (45); 443.091(1)(g); 443.111; 443.1216, Florida Statutes; Rule 73B-11.016, Florida Administrative Code.

Issues Involved: WAGE CREDITS: Whether the claimant was paid sufficient base period wages to qualify for unemployment compensation benefits, pursuant to Sections 443.036(21), (27), (45); 443.091(1)(g); 443.111; 443.1216, Florida Statutes; Rule 73B-11.016, Florida Administrative Code.

ADDITIONAL WAGE CREDITS: Whether the claimant earned additional wages for insured work during the base period, pursuant to Sections 443.036(21), (27), (45), 443.111; 443.1216, Florida Statutes; Rule 73B-11.016, Florida Administrative Code.

INSURED WORK: Whether services performed by the claimant during the base period constitute "employment," pursuant to Sections 443.036(21), 443.036(27); 443.1216, Florida Statutes.

Findings of Fact: The claimant filed a claim for benefits effective April 26, 2020, establishing a base period running from January 2019, through December 2019. A monetary determination was issued on May 15, 2020, finding the claimant monetarily ineligible to receive benefits as he did not meet the minimum requirement of having a gross total of \$3,400 in the base period. Not enough wages were earned to establish a Florida reemployment assistance claim. The claimant has earnings in the second and third quarters of 2019 from employer _____ in the amount of \$319.66

Conclusions of Law: To be monetarily eligible for Reemployment Assistance benefits, the claimant must have:

- (a) Base period wages for insured work in two or more calendar quarters of the base period; and
- (b) Total base period wages equaling at least 1.5 times the wages paid during the high quarter of the base period, but not less than \$3400.

The "base period" is the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of the benefit year. The "high quarter" is the calendar quarter in which the most wages were paid. The weekly benefit amount equals one twenty-sixth of the total wages paid during the high quarter, but not less than \$32 or more than \$275. Available benefits equal twenty-five percent of total base period wages, or a maximum established by law, whichever is less. See, section 443.091(1)(g); 443.111(2), Florida Statutes. The maximum is currently 12 weeks of benefits.

The Florida Administrative Code provides in relevant part:

73B-11.016 Monetary Determinations.

(1) Computation of Wages.

(a) All employment in the base period reported by an employer or determined by the Department from available information shall be considered in computing the monetary eligibility of a claimant.

(b) Assignment of Wages to Calendar Quarters. Wages will generally be counted as reported by the employer. Upon request by the claimant or employer and for the purpose of determining the claimant's weekly benefit amount and maximum available credits, wages may be assigned to the calendar quarter in which the wages were earned, but can be used in only one base period.

The record as evidenced by the claimant's testimony and the monetary determination show wages totaling \$319.66 for the second and third quarters of 2019. No additional earned W2 income was

provided. The claimant is monetarily ineligible to receive regular benefits, as he did not meet the minimum requirement of having a gross total of \$3,400 in the base period. Not enough wages were earned to establish a Florida reemployment assistance claim for regular benefits.

The claimant should continue to monitor his Connect account as pending adjudication issues may be preventing him from receiving pandemic benefits. The claimant is urged to appeal any determination which holds him ineligible or disqualified. He should also continue to claim his weeks if unemployed.

Decision: The monetary determination dated May 15, 2020 is AFFIRMED. The claimant remains monetarily ineligible to receive benefits on the regular unemployment claim.

If this decision disqualifies and/or holds the claimant ineligible for benefits already received, the claimant will be required to repay those benefits. The specific amount of any overpayment will be calculated by the department and set forth in a separate overpayment determination, unless specified in this decision. However, the time to request review of this decision is as shown above and is not stopped, delayed or extended by any other determination, decision or order.

This is to certify that a copy of the above decision was distributed/mailed to the last known address of each interested party on November 25, 2020.

M. Murdock
Appeals Referee



By:

Terry Obsaint, Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT - APPEAL RIGHTS: This decision will become final unless a written request for review or reopening is filed within 20 calendar days after the distribution/mailed date shown. If the 20th day is a Saturday, Sunday or holiday defined in F.A.C. 73B-21.003(4), filing may be made on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or holiday. If this decision disqualifies and/or holds the claimant ineligible for benefits already received, the claimant will be required to repay those benefits. The specific amount of any overpayment will be calculated by the Department and set forth in a separate overpayment determination. However, the time to request review of this decision is as shown above and is not stopped, delayed or extended by any other determination, decision or order.

A party who did not attend the hearing for good cause may request reopening, including the reason for not attending, at connect.myflorida.com or by writing to the address at the top of this decision. The date of the confirmation page will be the filing date of a request for reopening on the Department's Web Site.

A party who attended the hearing and received an adverse decision may file a request for review to the Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Boulevard, Suite 300, Tallahassee, FL 32301-2975; (Fax: 850-488-2123); <https://raaciap.floridajobs.org>. If mailed, the postmark date will be the filing date. If faxed, hand-delivered, delivered by courier service other than the United States Postal Service, or submitted via the Internet, the date of receipt will be the filing date. To avoid delay, include the docket number and the last five digits of the claimant's social security number. A party requesting review should specify any and all allegations of error with respect to the referee's decision, and provide factual and/or legal support for these challenges. Allegations of error not specifically set forth in the request for review may be considered waived.

There is no cost to have a case reviewed by the Commission, nor is a party required to be represented by an attorney or other representative to have a case reviewed. The Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission has not been fully integrated into the Department's CONNECT system. While correspondence can be mailed or faxed to the Commission, no correspondence can be submitted to the Commission via the CONNECT system. All parties to an appeal before the Commission must maintain a current mailing address with the Commission. A party who changes his/her mailing address in the CONNECT system must also provide the updated address to the Commission, in writing. All correspondence sent by the Commission, including its final order, will be mailed to the parties at their mailing address on record with the Commission.

IMPORTANTE - DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN: Esta decisión pasará a ser final a menos que una solicitud por escrito para revisión o reapertura se registre dentro de 20 días de calendario después de la distribución/fecha de envío marcada en que la decisión fue remitida por correo. Si el vigésimo (20) día es un sábado, un domingo o un feriado definidos en F.A.C. 73B-21.003(4), el registro de la solicitud se puede realizar en el día siguiente que no sea un sábado, un domingo o un feriado. Si esta decisión descalifica y/o declara al reclamante como inelegible para recibir beneficios que ya fueron recibidos por el reclamante, se le requerirá al reclamante rembolsar esos beneficios. La cantidad específica de cualquier sobrepago [pago excesivo de beneficios] será calculada por la Agencia y establecida en una determinación de pago excesivo de beneficios que será emitida por separado. Sin embargo, el límite de tiempo para solicitar la revisión de esta decisión es como se establece anteriormente y dicho límite no es detenido, demorado o extendido por ninguna otra determinación, decisión u orden.

Una parte que no asistió a la audiencia por una buena causa puede solicitar una reapertura, incluyendo la razón por no haber comparecido en la audiencia, en connect.myflorida.com o escribiendo a la dirección en la parte superior de esta decisión. La fecha de la página de confirmación será la fecha de presentación de una solicitud de reapertura en la página de Internet del Departamento.

Una parte que asistió a la audiencia y recibió una decisión adversa puede registrar una solicitud de revisión con la Comisión de Apelaciones de Servicios de Reempleo; Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Boulevard, Suite 300, Tallahassee, FL 32301-2975; (Fax: 850-488-2123); <https://raaciap.floridajobs.org>. Si la solicitud es enviada por correo, la fecha del sello de la oficina de correos será la fecha de registro de la solicitud. Si es enviada por telefax, entregada a mano, entregada por servicio de mensajería, con la excepción del Servicio Postal de Estados Unidos, o realizada vía el Internet, la fecha en la que se recibe la solicitud será la fecha de registro. Para evitar demora, incluya el número de expediente [*docket number*] y los últimos cinco dígitos del número de seguro social del reclamante. Una parte que solicita una revisión debe especificar cualquiera y todos los alegatos de error con respecto a la decisión del árbitro, y proporcionar fundamentos reales y/o legales para substanciar éstos desafíos. Los alegatos de error que no se establezcan con especificidad en la solicitud de revisión pueden considerarse como renunciados.

No hay ningún costo para tener un caso revisado por la Comisión, ni es requerido que una parte sea representado por un abogado u otro representante para poder tener un caso revisado. La Comisión de Apelación de Asistencia de Reempleo no ha sido plenamente integrado en el sistema CONNECT del Departamento. Mientras que la correspondencia puede ser enviada por correo o por fax a la Comisión, ninguna correspondencia puede ser sometida a la Comisión a través del sistema CONNECT. Todas las partes en una apelación ante la Comisión deben mantener una dirección de correo actual con la Comisión. La parte que cambie su dirección de correo en el sistema CONNECT también debe proporcionar la dirección actualizada a la Comisión, por escrito. Toda la correspondencia enviada por la Comisión, incluida su orden final, será enviada a las partes en su dirección de correo en el registro con la Comisión.

ENPÒTAN - DWA DAPÈL: Desizyon sa a ap definitiv sòf si ou depoze yon apèl nan yon delè 20 jou apre dat distribisyon/postaj. Si 20yèm jou a se yon samdi, yon dimanch oswa yon jou konje, jan sa defini lan F.A.C. 73B-21.003(4), depo an kapab fèt jou aprè a, si se pa yon samdi, yon dimanch oswa yon jou konje. Si desizyon an diskalifye epi/oswa deklare moun k ap fè demann lan pa kalifye pou alokasyon li resevwa deja, moun k ap fè demann lan ap gen pou li remèt lajan li te resevwa a. Se Ajans lan k ap kalkile montan nenpòt ki pèman anplis epi y ap detèmine sa lan yon desizyon separe. Sepandan, delè pou mande revizyon desizyon sa a se delè yo bay anwo a; Okenn lòt detèminasyon, desizyon oswa lòd pa ka rete, retade oubyen pwolonje dat sa a.

Yon pati ki te gen yon rezon valab pou li pat asiste seyans lan gen dwa mande pou yo ouvri ka a ankò; fòk yo bay rezon yo pat ka vini an epi fè demann nan sou sitwèb sa a, connect.myflorida.com oswa alekri nan adrès ki mansyone okomansman desizyon sa a. Dat cofimasyon page sa pral jou ou ranpli deman pou reouvewti dan web sit depatman.

Yon pati ki te asiste odyans la epi li resevwa yon desizyon negatif kapab soumèt yon demann pou revizyon retounen travay Asistans Komisyon Apèl la, Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Boulevard, Suite 300, Tallahassee, FL 32301-2975; (Faks: 850-488-2123); <https://raaciap.floridajobs.org>. Si poste a, dat tenm ap dat li ranpli aplikasyon. Si fakse, men yo-a delivre, lage pa sèvis mesajè lèt pase Etazini Sèvis nan Etazini Nimewo, oswa soumèt sou Entènèt la, dat yo te resevwa ap dat li ranpli aplikasyon. Pou evite reta, mete nimewo rejis la ak senk dènye chif nimewo sekirite sosyal demandè a sosyal demandè a sekirite. Yon pati pou mande revizyon ta dwe presize nenpòt ak tout akizasyon nan erè ki gen rapò ak desizyon abit la, yo epi bay sipò reyèl ak / oswa legal pou defi sa yo. Alegasyon sou erè pa espesyalman tabli nan demann nan pou revizyon yo kapab konsidere yo egzante.

Pa gen okenn kou pou Komisyon an revize yon ka, ni ke yon pati dwe reprezante pa yon avoka oubyen lòt reprezantan pou ke la li a revize. Komisyon Apèl Asistans Reyanbochaj pa te entegre antyèman nan sistèm CONNECT Depatman an. Byenke korespondans kapab fakse oubyen pòste bay Komisyon an, okenn korespondans pa kapab soumèt bay Komisyon an atravè sistèm CONNECT. Tout pati ki nan yon apèl devan Komisyon an dwe mentni yon adrès postal ki ajou avèk Komisyon an. Yon pati ki chanje adrès postal li nan sistèm CONNECT la dwe bay Komisyon an adrès ki mete ajou a tou. Tout korespondans ke Komisyon an voye, sa enkli manda final li, pral pòste voye bay pati yo nan adrès postal yo genyen nan achiv Komisyon an.

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.