

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
BOARD OF REVIEW



IN THE MATTER OF:

Higher Authority Decision No.

ATTN:

Claimant

Employer

STATEMENT OF CASE:

The claimant filed a NEW INITIAL CLAIM (NIC) for unemployment insurance benefits effective . Thereafter, the Division of Employment Security (“Division”) determined that the weekly benefit amount payable to the claimant was \$ and, during the benefit year established by the claimant, the maximum amount of unemployment insurance benefits payable to the claimant was \$ .

The claim was referred for adjudication on the issue of separation from last employment. The adjudicator issued a Determination by Adjudicator under Docket No. on finding the claimant (disqualified) (not disqualified) for benefits pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 96-14(.). The (claimant) (employer) filed an appeal from the Determination and the matter was heard by Appeals Referee under Appeals Docket No. The following individuals appeared at the hearing before the Appeals Referee: . On , the Appeals Referee issued a decision finding the claimant (not) disqualified to receive benefits pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 96-14(.). **The (claimant) (employer) has appealed.**

FINDINGS OF FACT:

1. The claimant has filed continued claims for unemployment insurance benefits for the period through . The claimant has registered for work with the Division, has continued to report to an employment office as requested by the Division, and has made a claim for benefits in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 96-15(a).
2. The claimant began working for the employer on as (a/an) . (He) (She) last worked for the employer on .



MEMORANDUM OF LAW:

The Employment Security Law of North Carolina provides that an individual is not disqualified for benefits for leaving work if the individual reasonably believes that the individual's continued employment would jeopardize the safety of the individual or of any member of the individual's immediate family. For purposes of this subdivision, an individual is a victim of domestic violence if one or more of the following applies:

- a. The individual has been adjudged an aggrieved party as set forth by Chapter 50B of the General Statutes.
- b. There is evidence of domestic violence, sexual offense, or stalking. Evidence of domestic violence, sexual offense, or stalking may include any one or more of the following:
  1. Law enforcement, court, or federal agency records or files.
  2. Documentation from a domestic violence or sexual assault program if the individual is alleged to be a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault.
  3. Documentation from a religious, medical, or other professional from whom the individual has sought assistance in dealing with the alleged domestic violence, sexual abuse, or stalking.
- c. The individual has been granted program participant status pursuant to G.S. 15C-4 as the result of domestic violence committed upon the individual or upon a minor child with or in the custody of the individual by another individual who has or has had a familial relationship with the individual or minor child.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 96-14.8(2).

“Immediate family” means an individual’s spouse, child, grandchild, parent, and grandparent, whether the relationship is a biological, step-, half-, or in-law relationship. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 96-1(18).

In passing upon issues of fact in cases involving contested claims for unemployment insurance benefits, the Board of Review (“Board”) is the ultimate judge of the credibility of the witnesses, and of the weight to be given to their testimony. The Board may accept or reject the testimony of a witness, either in whole or in part, depending solely upon whether it believes or disbelieves the same. Moses v. Bartholomew, 238 N.C. 714, 78 S.E.2d 923 (1953); Phillips v. Kincaid Furniture Co., 67 N.C. App. 329, 313 S.E.2d 19 (1984).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

In the present case, any controverted evidence was resolved by making findings of fact based on competent and credible evidence presented at the hearing.

The Board concludes from the competent and credible evidence and the facts found that the claimant left work for reasons of domestic violence within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 96-14.8(2).



Based on the foregoing, the Board concludes that the decision of the Appeals Referee must be (affirmed/reversed/modified) and the claimant held (disqualified) (not disqualified) from receiving benefits.

Benefits paid the basis of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 96-14.8(2) are not chargeable to the employer's account.

DECISION:

The decision of the Appeals Referee is (**AFFIRMED**)(**REVERSED**)(**MODIFIED**).

The claimant is **DISQUALIFIED** for unemployment insurance benefits beginning (**NOT DISQUALIFIED** and will receive unemployment insurance benefits beginning

Board of Review members Susan Doe and John Doe participated in this appeal and concur with this decision.

This the .

BOARD OF REVIEW

---

Chairman

**NOTE:** This Higher Authority Decision will become final thirty (30) days after mailing unless a petition for judicial review is filed with the superior court as indicated below. The date of mailing is found on the last page of this decision. Although the Board does not impart legal advice, please see the enclosed pamphlet for additional guidance on how to appeal a Higher Authority Decision. The pamphlet is available in the public employment offices throughout the State, and on the Division of Employment Security's website. You may also visit the *Frequently Asked Questions* section on the Division of Employment Security's website at [www.des.nc.gov](http://www.des.nc.gov), and consult an attorney of your choosing.

**APPEAL RIGHTS FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW**

Appeals from this Higher Authority Decision must be filed with the Clerk of Superior Court by the petitioner in the county in which he or she resides, or in which the petitioner has its principal place of business. If a party does not reside in any county or have a principal place of business in any county in North Carolina, appeals must be filed with the Clerk of Superior Court of Wake County, North Carolina *or* with the Clerk of Superior Court of the North Carolina county in which the controversy arose.

This Higher Authority Decision will become final thirty (30) days after mailing unless a timely petition for judicial review is filed with the superior court pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 96-15(h) and (i).

**IMPORTANT – SEE FOLLOWING PAGE**



Copies of any Petition for Judicial Review filed with the Clerk of Superior Court must be served upon the Division of Employment Security (“Division”) and upon all parties of record to the proceedings within ten (10) days of the filing of the petition. Copies of the petition must be served by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested. Petitions for superior court review must be served on and addressed to the registered agent for service of process for the Division:

Frank Doe  
Chief Counsel  
North Carolina Department of Commerce  
Division of Employment Security  
**Mailing Address:** Post Office Box 25903, Raleigh, NC 27611-5903  
**Physical Address:** 700 Wade Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27605-1154

**NOTE:** If you are served with a Petition for Judicial Review by another party, you will not be a party to the judicial review proceedings unless you: (1) notify the superior court within ten (10) days after you receive the petition that you want to become a party to the proceedings, or (2) file a motion to intervene as provided in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 1A-1, Rule 24.

#### **NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES**

A legal representative as defined in 04 N.C. Admin. Code 24A .0105(32) (including individuals from a third-party company serving as an employer’s unemployment insurance administrator) must be a licensed attorney, or a person supervised by a licensed attorney in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. Ch. 84 and § 96-17(b). Notices and/or certification of attorney supervision must be in writing pursuant to 04 N.C. Admin. Code 24C .0504. **Legal representation in judicial proceedings must comply with N.C. Gen. Stat. Ch. 84.**

Pursuant to 04 N.C. Admin. Code 24C .0504, when a party has a legal representative, all documents or information required to be provided to the party will only be sent to the legal representative. Any information provided to a party’s legal representative will have the same force and effect as if it had been sent directly to the party.

**For claims filed on or after June 30, 2013, claimants are subject to repayment of benefits received from any administrative or judicial decision that is later reversed on appeal.** N.C. Gen. Stat. § 96-18(g)(2).

**SPECIAL NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS:** If you were receiving or have previously received unemployment insurance benefits in connection with the underlying claim and this Higher Authority Decision rules you ineligible or disqualified for all or part of such benefits, you may now have an overpayment of benefits pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 96-18(g)(2). If an overpayment is created by this Higher Authority Decision, you will be mailed a separate Notice of Overpayment or Determination of Overpayment from the Division’s Benefits Integrity/Benefit Payment Control Section. The Notice of Overpayment or Determination of Overpayment will specify, among other things, the amount of your overpayment and any penalties that apply. Please note that the only way you may contest the overpayment is to file a petition for judicial review of this Higher Authority Decision with the superior court as provided above, and in accordance with North Carolina law. In your petition, you must specify whether you are

Higher Authority Decision No.  
Page Five of Five



appealing (1) the issue of disqualification or eligibility and/or (2) the resulting determination that you received an overpayment of benefits.

Appeal Filed:

Decision Mailed: