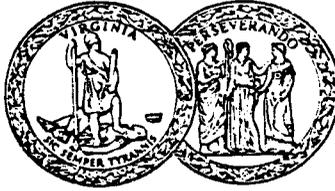


COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VIRGINIA EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

SUITABLE WORK - 195.05  
Experience or Training  
General



DECISION OF COMMISSION

In the Matter of

Joan G. Eagle  
[REDACTED]

Wood Insurance Company  
Richmond, Virginia

Date of Appeal  
To Commission: June 26, 1984  
Date of Hearing: September 4, 1984  
Place: RICHMOND, VIRGINIA  
Decision No.: 23719-C  
Date of Decision: September 4, 1984  
Date of Mailing: September 7, 1984  
Final Date to File Appeal  
with Circuit Court: September 27, 1984

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This is a matter before the Commission on appeal by the claimant from the decision of the Appeals Examiner (No. UI-84-4095), mailed June 6, 1984.

ISSUE

Did the claimant fail without good cause either to apply for available, suitable work when so directed or to accept suitable work when offered her as provided in Section 60.1-58(c) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended?

FINDINGS OF FACT

Wood Insurance Company was the claimant's last employer where she had worked as a secretary and receptionist. The claimant typed, filed, answered the phone, and filled out applications for insurance. She worked seven hours a day, five days a week and was paid \$4.90 an hour at the time of her separation. Prior to working for the Wood Insurance Company, the claimant had worked for another insurance agency as a secretary/receptionist from 1982. The claimant was separated from Wood Insurance Company when her position was eliminated, a circumstance previously ruled to be non-disqualifying.

The claimant filed a claim for benefits effective March 18, 1984. She was actively seeking work, and she had registered for part-time work with the Batelle Temporaries. On April 12, 1984, the claimant called VCU and was told that they did have clerical positions and that she should come down the next day to apply. The morning of the next day April 13, 1984, the claimant was contacted at approximately 9:00 a.m. by Batelle Temporaries and was offered a job stuffing envelopes at the United States Post Office for minimum wage, \$3.35. The job was to last five hours beginning at 11:00 a.m. that same day. The claimant declined the work because she had planned to interview for possible employment as a secretary at VCU.

#### OPINION

Section 60.1-58(c) of the Code of Virginia provides a disqualification if it is found that an individual has failed without good cause to accept an offer of suitable work.

In determining the suitability of work offered to an individual, the Act requires the Commission to consider, among other things, the length of the claimant's unemployment at the time the work is proffered, and the claimant's prior training and experience.

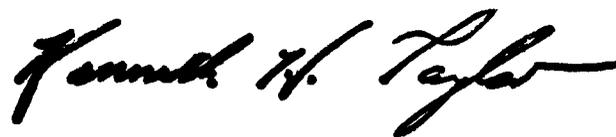
The Appeals Examiner ruled that the work of an envelope-stuffer was suitable because it met the prevailing wage for "material handlers" in the area. Notwithstanding that the wage offered the claimant was prevailing for envelope-stuffers in the area, the work was not suitable for this claimant taking into consideration the claimant's prior training and experience as a secretary and in view of her relatively short-length of unemployment after having filed her claim.

The Commission has held that an individual would have a reasonable period of time in which to seek employment commensurate with their prior training and experience prior to broadening her job search to include merely work that she is capable of performing. Since the Commission concludes that the work offered the claimant was not suitable by virtue of her prior training or experience, it would be unnecessary to inquire into the issue of whether she had good cause for failing to accept it.

#### DECISION

The decision of the Appeals Examiner is reversed. It is held that no disqualification should be imposed in connection with the claimant having failed to accept an offer of work effective April 4, 1984.

The Claims Deputy is directed to review the claim and determine the claimant's eligibility for benefits during the weeks claimed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth H. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Kenneth H. Taylor  
Special Examiner