



This Court’s review of the Board’s decisions “is highly deferential.” 863 To Go, Inc. v. Dep’t of Lab., 2014 VT 61, ¶ 8, 196 Vt. 551.

Claimant argues that she left her employment involuntarily and therefore properly received unemployment benefits and is not liable for repaying the debt. Claimant’s arguments regarding the merits of the underlying unemployment case are not before us in this appeal because the manner of her separation has already been resolved by a final judgment. A final judgment is one that “conclusively determines the rights of the parties, leaving nothing for the court to do but execute it.” Town of Pawlet v. Banyai, 2024 VT 13, ¶ 8, 219 Vt. 90 (quotation and alterations omitted). Once a judgment is final, it cannot be collaterally attacked. Id. Here, claimant had the opportunity to contest whether she voluntarily left her prior employment or was terminated and therefore entitled to unemployment compensation. She did not appeal the claims adjudicator’s determination in a timely manner and that matter concluded with this Court’s decision in 2023. Claimant’s attempt to relitigate that now-final decision is barred. Id. ¶ 11.

Claimant does not challenge the information or accuracy of the debt collection. Therefore, there are no grounds to reverse the Department of Labor’s action to collect on the debt.

Affirmed.

BY THE COURT:

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Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice

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Harold E. Eaton, Jr., Associate Justice

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William D. Cohen, Associate Justice