

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU**

JENNY M POUCH

Claimant

APPEAL 23A-UI-03006-AR-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

CASEY'S MARKETING COMPANY

Employer

OC: 07/31/22

Claimant: Respondent (1R)

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest

Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(6) – Appeal from the Statement of Charges

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On March 14, 2023, Casey's Marketing Company (employer) filed an appeal from the statement of charges dated February 9, 2023, (reference 07), for the fourth quarter of 2022. A hearing was held on April 6, 2023, pursuant to due notice. Jenny M. Poush (claimant) did not participate. The employer participated through Account Executive Marideliz Ortiz. The department's Exhibit D-1 was admitted into the record. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Was the employer's protest timely?

Was the employer's appeal from the statement of charges timely?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant separated from employment on August 20, 2021. Claimant filed a claim for benefits in the first claim year with an effective date of May 2, 2021. A notice of claim was provided to the employer via the online SIDES system, and the employer timely responded to that notice of claim. Iowa Workforce Development issued an unemployment insurance decision dated October 4, 2021 (reference 04), determining claimant was allowed benefits based on the separation from employment.

Claimant then opened a claim in a second benefit year with an effective date of July 31, 2022. A second notice of claim was not provided to the employer. The first notice of the claimant's claim for benefits was the statement of charges mailed November 9, 2022, for the third quarter of 2022. This statement of charges was the subject of appeal number 22A-UI-19633-LJ-T, in which the administrative law judge determined the employer's protest and appeal of the statement of charges was timely. The issues of whether claimant's separation was adjudicated in a prior claim year was remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for adjudication. No other determination regarding this employment has been issued as of this date. The next notice of the claimant's claim for benefits was the receipt of the statement of

charges mailed February 9, 2023, for the fourth quarter of 2022. The employer's appeal is postmarked March 14, 2023. However, the postage meter date is March 13, 2023. The witness testified that the postage meter mark accurately reflects the date on which the appeal was transmitted to the post office. The 30-day deadline for timely appeal occurred on March 13, 2023.

The issue of whether the claimant's separation has been adjudicated in a prior claim year shall be remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for determination.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the employer did file a timely appeal to the statement of charges.

The first issue to be considered in this appeal is whether the appeal is timely. The administrative law judge determines it is.

Iowa Code section 96.6(2) provides, in pertinent part: "[u]nless the claimant or other interested party, after notification or within ten calendar days after notification was mailed to the claimant's last known address, files an appeal from the decision, the decision is final and benefits shall be paid or denied in accordance with the decision."

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871—24.35(1) provides:

1. Except as otherwise provided by statute or by division rule, any payment, appeal, application, request, notice, objection, petition, report or other information or document submitted to the division shall be considered received by and filed with the division:

(a) If transmitted via the United States Postal Service on the date it is mailed as shown by the postmark, or in the absence of a postmark the postage meter mark of the envelope in which it is received; or if not postmarked or postage meter marked or if the mark is illegible, on the date entered on the document as the date of completion.

(b) If transmitted via the State Identification Data Exchange System (SIDES), maintained by the United States Department of Labor, on the date it was submitted to SIDES.

(c) If transmitted by any means other than [United States Postal Service or the State Identification Data Exchange System (SIDES)], on the date it is received by the division.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871—24.35(2) provides:

2. The submission of any payment, appeal, application, request, notice, objection, petition, report or other information or document not within the specified statutory or regulatory period shall be considered timely if it is established to the satisfaction of the division that the delay in submission was due to division error or misinformation or to delay or other action of the United States postal service.

The Iowa Supreme Court has declared that there is a mandatory duty to file appeals from representatives' decisions within the time allotted by statute, and that the administrative law judge has no authority to change the decision of a representative if a timely appeal is not filed. *Franklin v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 277 N.W.2d 877, 881 (Iowa 1979). Compliance with appeal notice provisions is jurisdictional unless the facts of a case show that the notice was invalid. *Beardslee v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 276 N.W.2d 373, 377 (Iowa 1979); see also *In re Appeal of Elliott* 319 N.W.2d 244, 247 (Iowa 1982).

Because the employer transmitted the appeal to the post office on March 13, 2023, it has met the deadline for the appeal to be considered timely. Any delay in affixing a postmark is due to delay by the United States Postal Service. The appeal is timely filed.

Iowa Code section 96.6(2) provides, in pertinent part:

Filing – determination – appeal.

2. Initial determination. A representative designated by the director shall promptly notify all interested parties to the claim of its filing, and the parties have ten days from the date of mailing the notice of the filing of the claim by ordinary mail to the last known address to protest payment of benefits to the claimant.

Iowa Code section 96.7(2)a(6) provides:

Employer contribution and reimbursements.

2. Contribution rates based on benefit experience.

a. (6) Within forty days after the close of each calendar quarter, the department shall notify each employer of the amount of benefits charged to the employer's account during that quarter. The notification shall show the name of each individual to whom benefits were paid, the individual's social security number, and the amount of benefits paid to the individual. An employer which has not been notified as provided in section 96.6, subsection 2, of the allowance of benefits to an individual, may within thirty days after the date of mailing of the notification appeal to the department for a hearing to determine the eligibility of the individual to receive benefits. The appeal shall be referred to an administrative law judge for hearing and the employer and the individual shall receive notice of the time and place of the hearing.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871—26.4 provides, in relevant part:

2. An appeal from an initial decision concerning the allowance or denial of benefits shall be filed, by mail, facsimile, or e-mail, online, or in person, not later than ten calendar days, as determined by the postmark or the date stamp after the decision was mailed to the party at its last-known address and shall state the following:

- a. The name, address and social security number of the claimant;
- b. A reference to the decision from which appeal is taken; and,
- c. The grounds upon which the appeal is based.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subrule 26.4(2), a contributory employer, which has not previously received a notice of the filing of a valid claim for benefits, may appeal an individual's eligibility to receive benefits within 30 days from the mailing date of the quarterly statement of benefit charges.

4. Also notwithstanding the provisions of subrule 26.4(2), a reimbursable employer, which has not previously received a notice of the filing of a valid claim for benefits, may appeal an individual's eligibility to receive benefits within 15 days of the mailing date of the quarterly billing of benefit charges.

An employee may appeal a claimant's eligibility for benefits through the quarterly statement of charges in cases where that employer has not previously received notice of the filing of a valid claim for unemployment insurance benefits. See Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(6). Here, the employer did not receive a notice of claim at the outset of the claimant's second benefit year, and no determination has been made regarding the issues remanded by appeal number 22A-UI-19633-LJ-T. Therefore, its timely appeal of the fourth quarter statement of charges is appropriate.

The matter will be remanded to the Benefits Bureau to review the claim history and to issue a prior adjudication decision consistent with the reference 04 decision in the May 2, 2021, claim year.

DECISION:

The February 9, 2023, (reference 07), statement of charges for the fourth quarter of 2022 is **AFFIRMED**, pending the outcome of the remanded issue. The employer has filed a timely appeal from that statement of charges.

REMAND:

The matter is remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development to review the claim history and to issue a prior adjudication decision consistent with the reference 04 decision in the May 2, 2021, claim year.



Alexis D. Rowe
Administrative Law Judge

April 7, 2023
Decision Dated and Mailed

ar/scn

APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board
4th Floor – Lucas Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515)281-7191
Online: eab.iowa.gov**

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday.

AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL STATE CLEARLY:

- 1) The name, address, and social security number of the claimant.
- 2) A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
- 3) That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
- 4) The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> or by contacting the District Court Clerk of Court <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Note to Parties: YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds.

Note to Claimant: It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

SERVICE INFORMATION:

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN. Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board
4th Floor – Lucas Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515)281-7191
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal.

UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiriera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que se encuentra en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> o comunicándose con el Tribunal de Distrito Secretario del tribunal <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Nota para las partes: USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

Nota para el reclamante: es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.